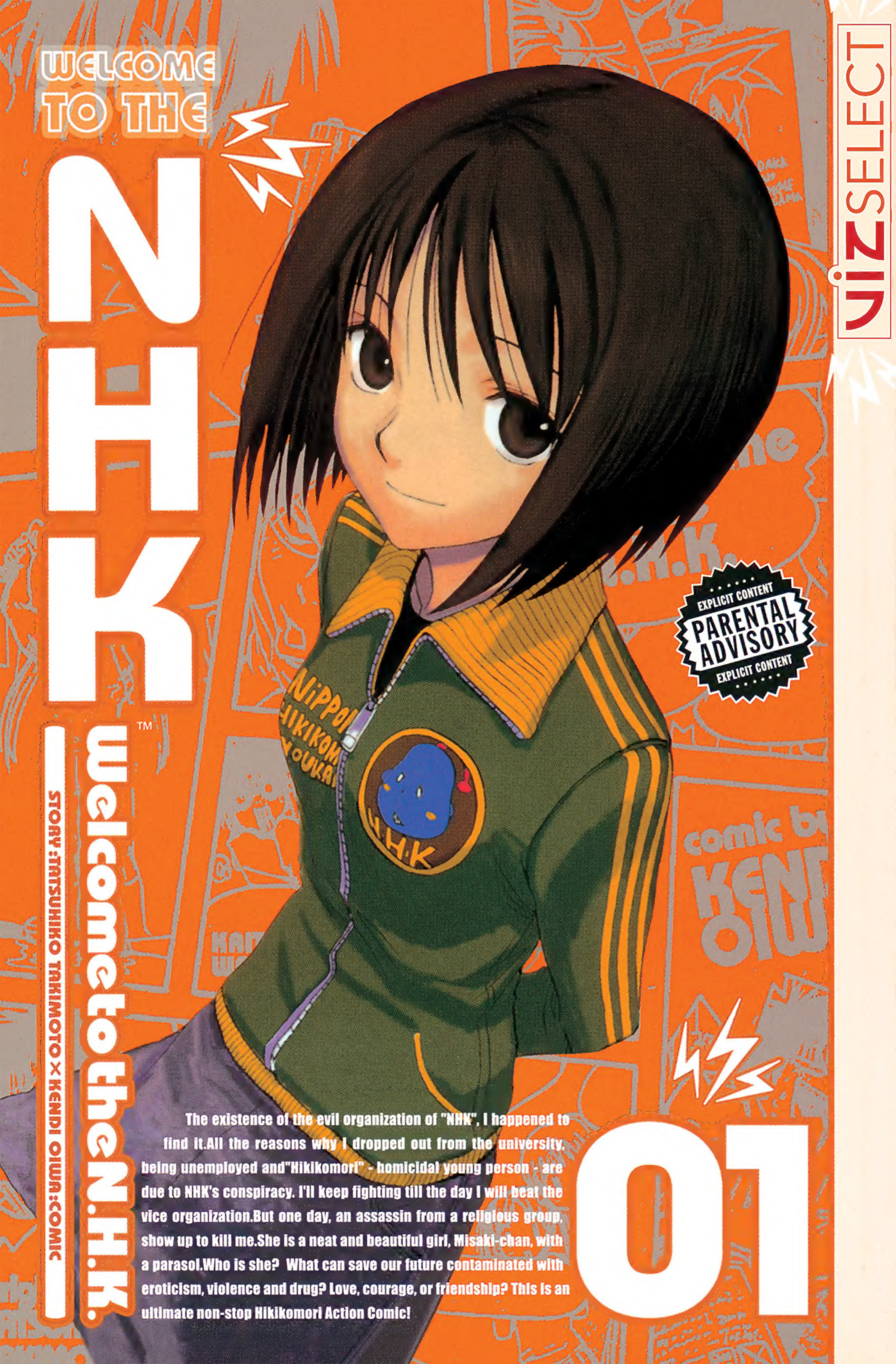


EXPLICIT CONTENT
PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT
N·H·K
comic by KENDI OIWA

WELCOME TO THE N.H.K.™

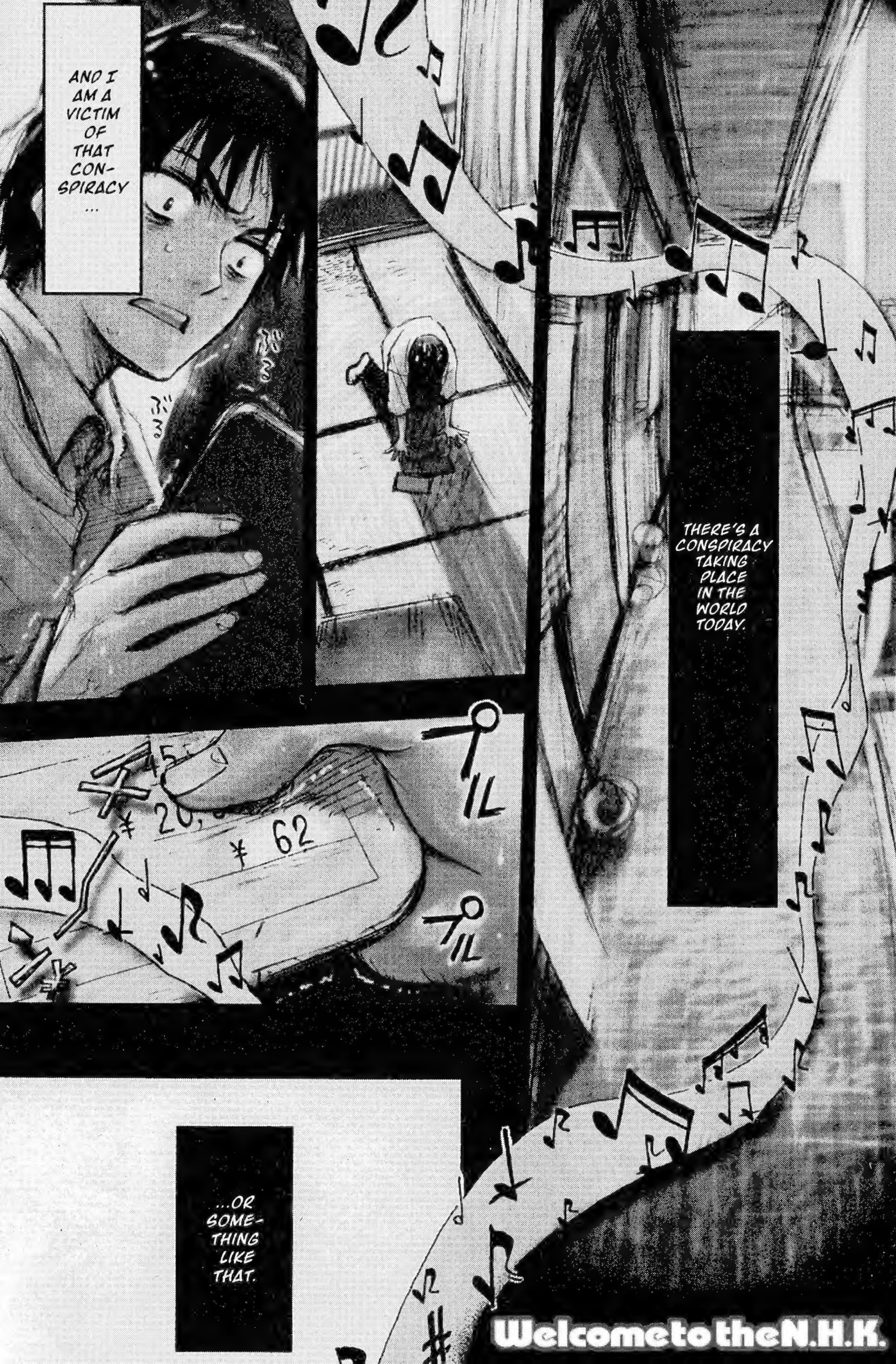
Welcome to the N.H.K.

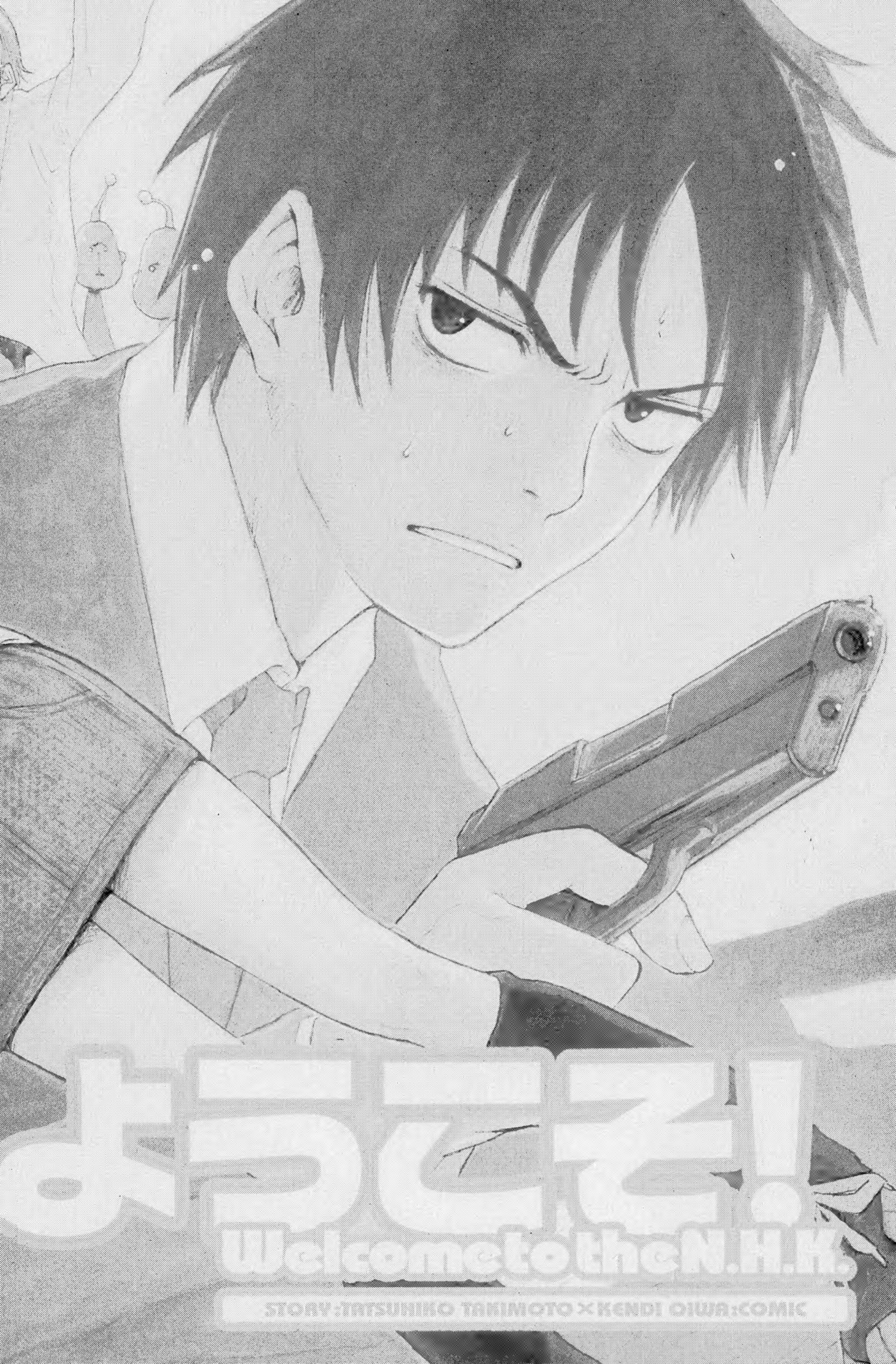
STORY: TATSUHIKO TAKIMOTO × KENDI OIWA: COMIC

VIZ SELECT

01

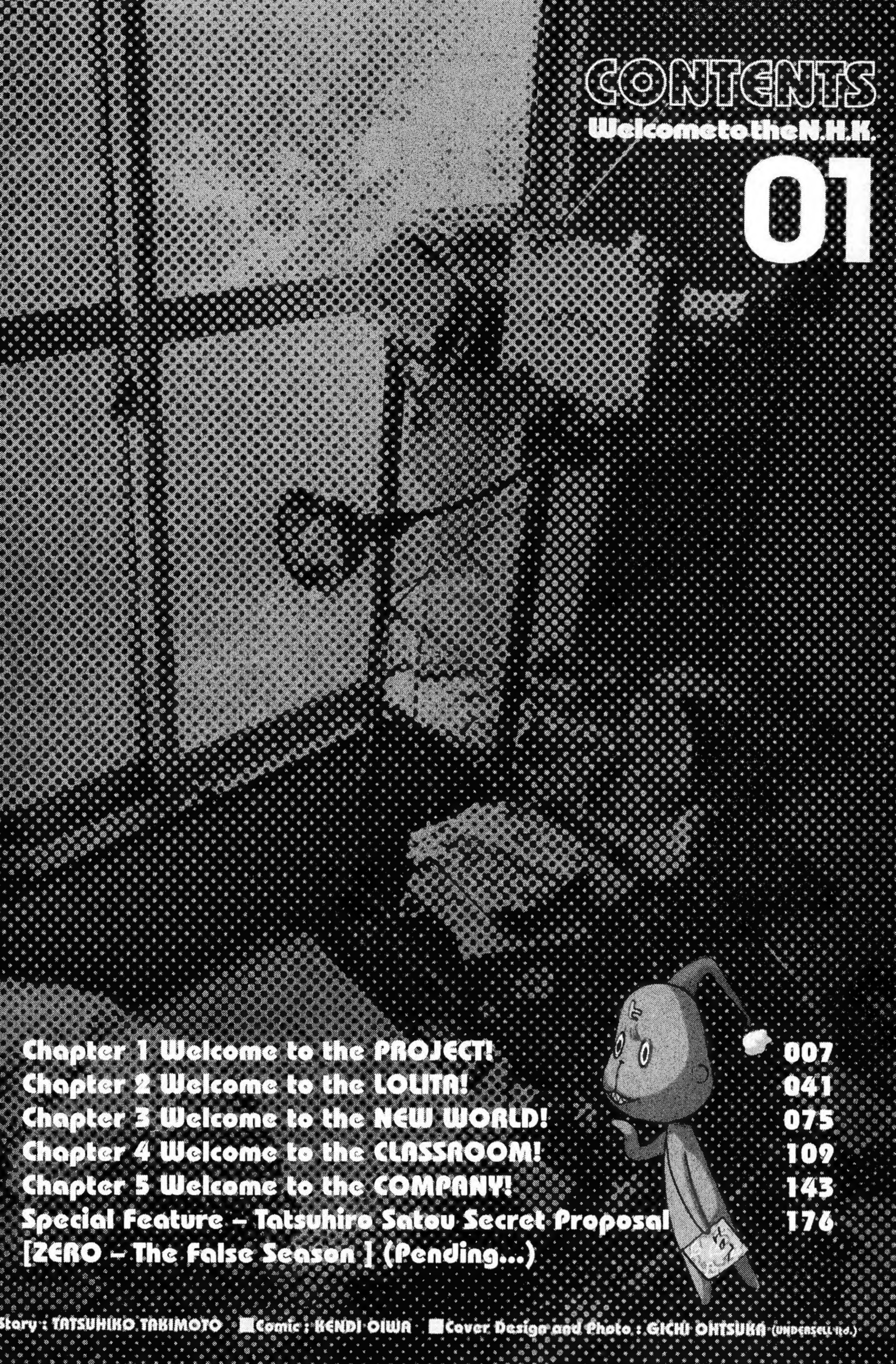
The existence of the evil organization of "NHK", I happened to find it.All the reasons why I dropped out from the university, being unemployed and"Hikikomori" - homicidal young person - are due to NHK's conspiracy. I'll keep fighting till the day I will beat the vice organization.But one day, an assassin from a religious group, show up to kill me.She is a neat and beautiful girl, Misaki-chan, with a parasol.Who is she? What can save our future contaminated with eroticism, violence and drug? Love, courage, or friendship? This is an ultimate non-stop Hikikomori Action Comic!


THERE'S A CONSPIRACY TAKING PLACE IN THE WORLD TODAY.
AND I AM A VICTIM OF THAT CONSPIRACY...
¥ 62
...OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
Welcome to the N.H.K.


ようこそ!
Welcome to the N.H.K.
STORY: TATSUHIKO TAKIMOTO × KENDI OIWA: COMIC

原作　滝本竜彦×大岩ケンヂ　漫画

NHK



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Story : TATSUHIKO TAKIMOTO ■Comic : KENDI OIWA ■Cover Design and Photo : GICHI OHTSUKA (UNDERSELL ltd.)

Welcome to the N.H.K.

VOLUME 1

By Tatsuhiko Takimoto and Kendi Oiwa

Welcome to the N.H.K. Vol. 1
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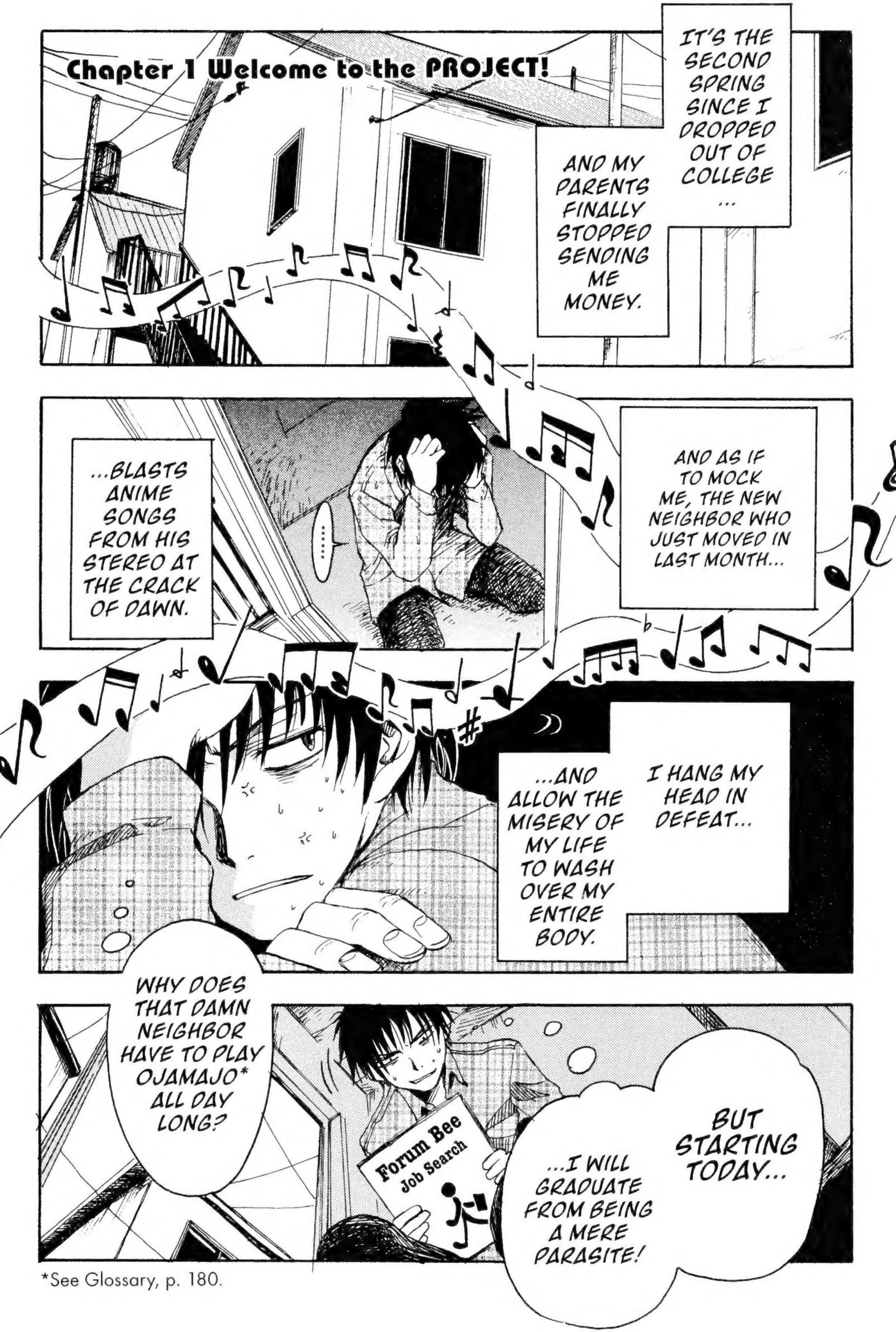
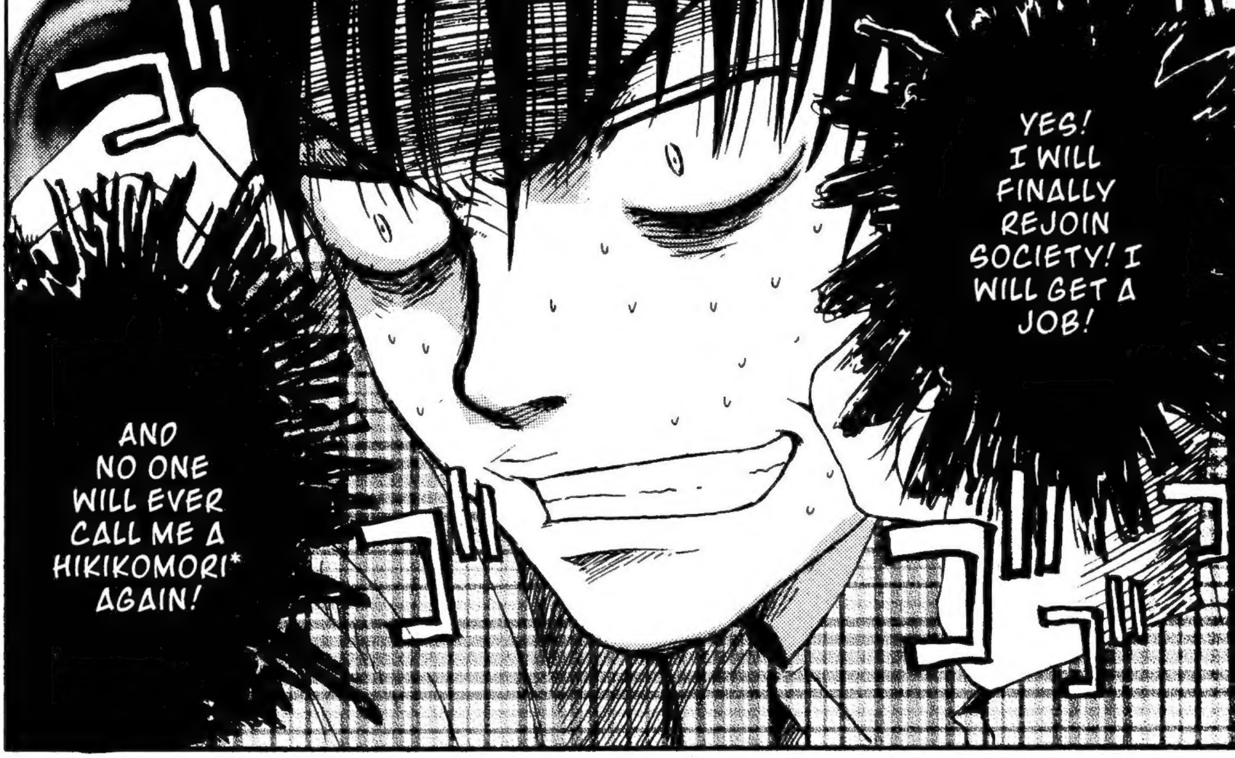
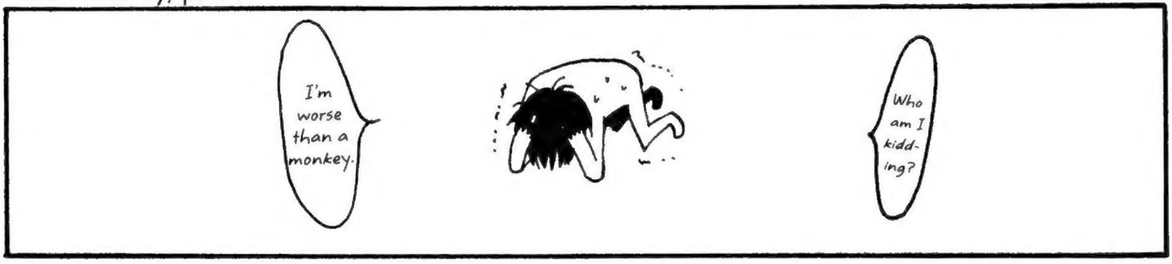
Chapter 1 Welcome to the PROJECT!


IT'S THE SECOND SPRING SINCE I DROPPED OUT OF COLLEGE ...
AND MY PARENTS FINALLY STOPPED SENDING ME MONEY.
AND AS IF TO MOCK ME, THE NEW NEIGHBOR WHO JUST MOVED IN LAST MONTH...
......
...BLASTS ANIME SONGS FROM HIS STEREO AT THE CRACK OF DAWN.
I HANG MY HEAD IN DEFEAT...
...AND ALLOW THE MISERY OF MY LIFE TO WASH OVER MY ENTIRE BODY.
WHY DOES THAT DAMN NEIGHBOR HAVE TO PLAY OJAMAJO* ALL DAY LONG?
BUT STARTING TODAY...
...I WILL GRADUATE FROM BEING A MERE PARASITE!
Forum Bee
Job Search

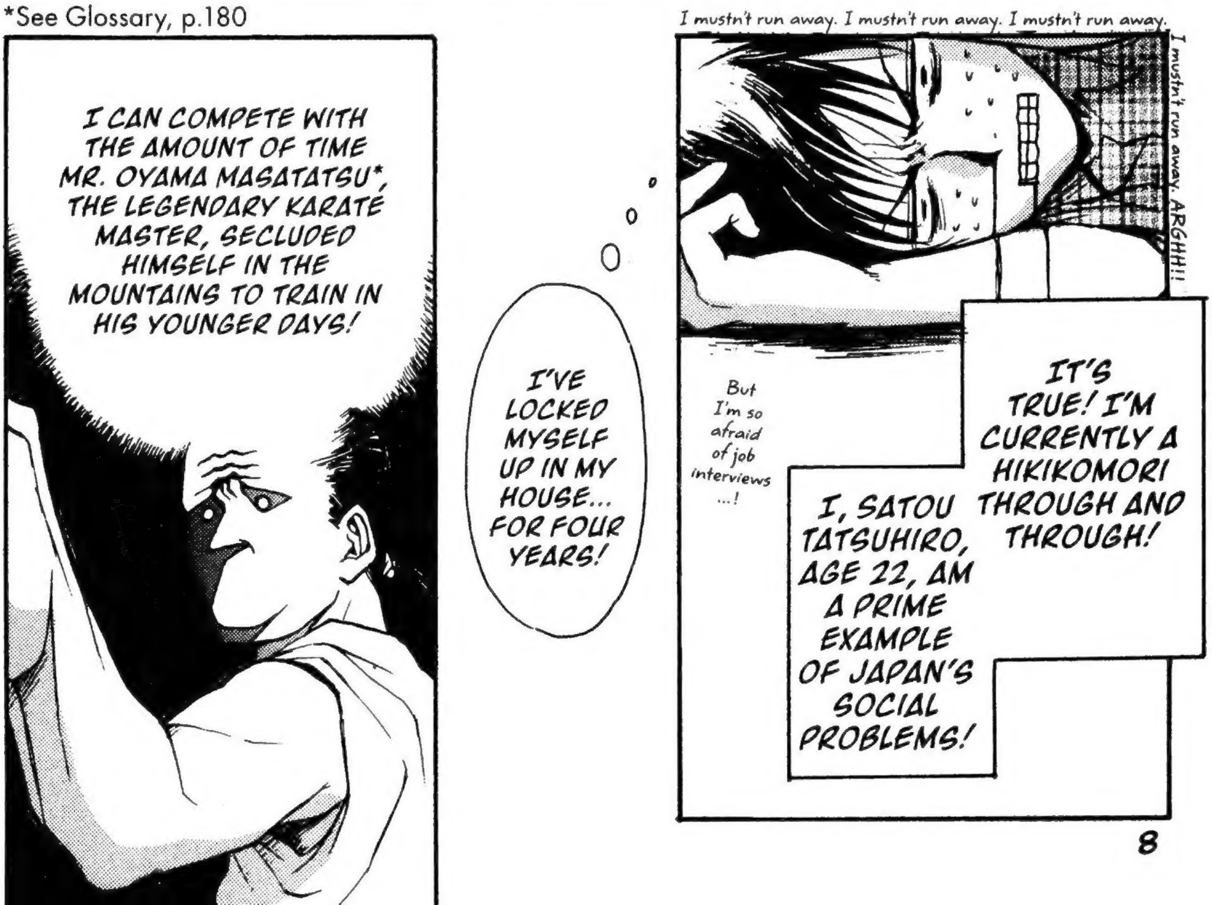
*See Glossary, p. 180.

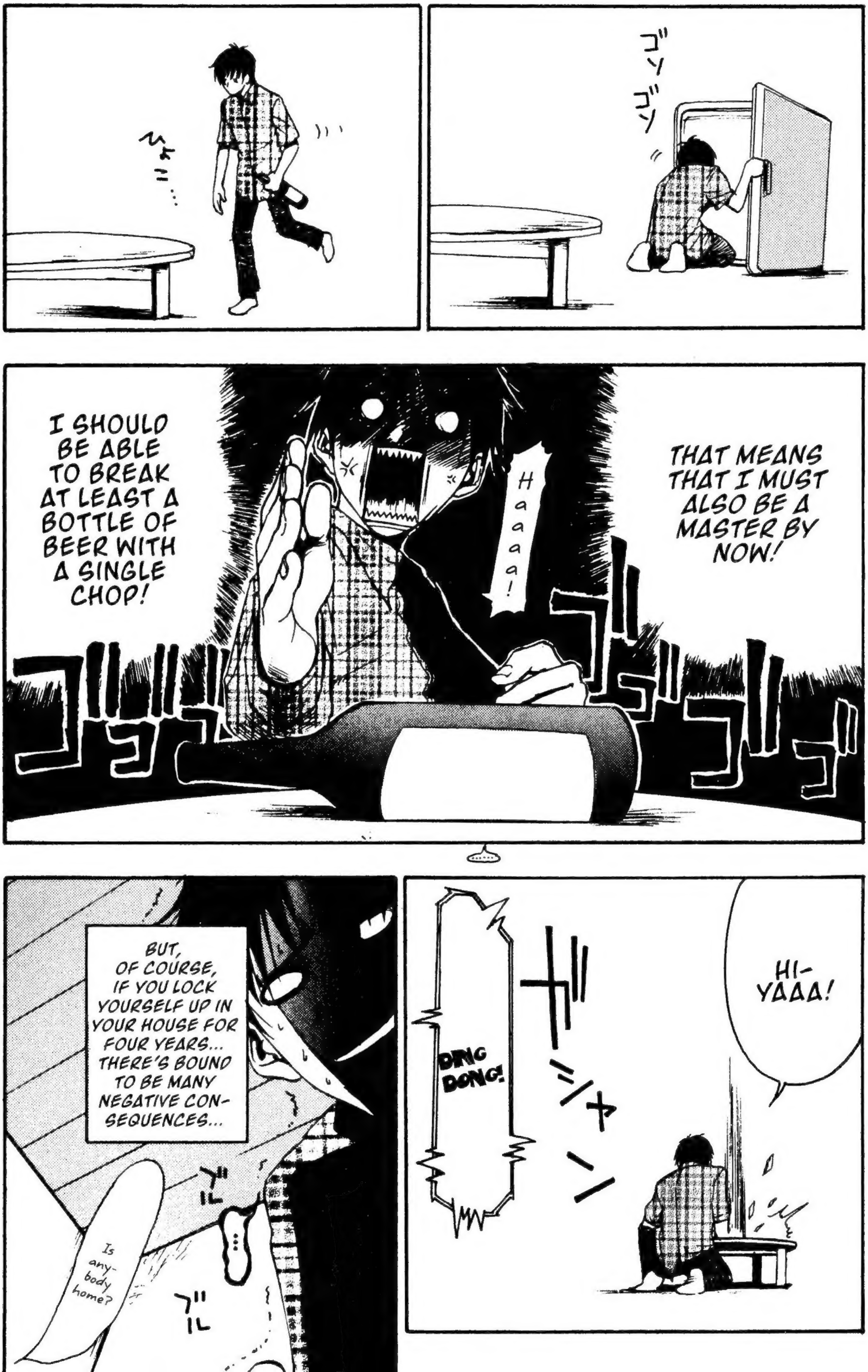

YES! I WILL FINALLY REJOIN SOCIETY! I WILL GET A JOB!
AND NO ONE WILL EVER CALL ME A HIKIKOMORI* AGAIN!

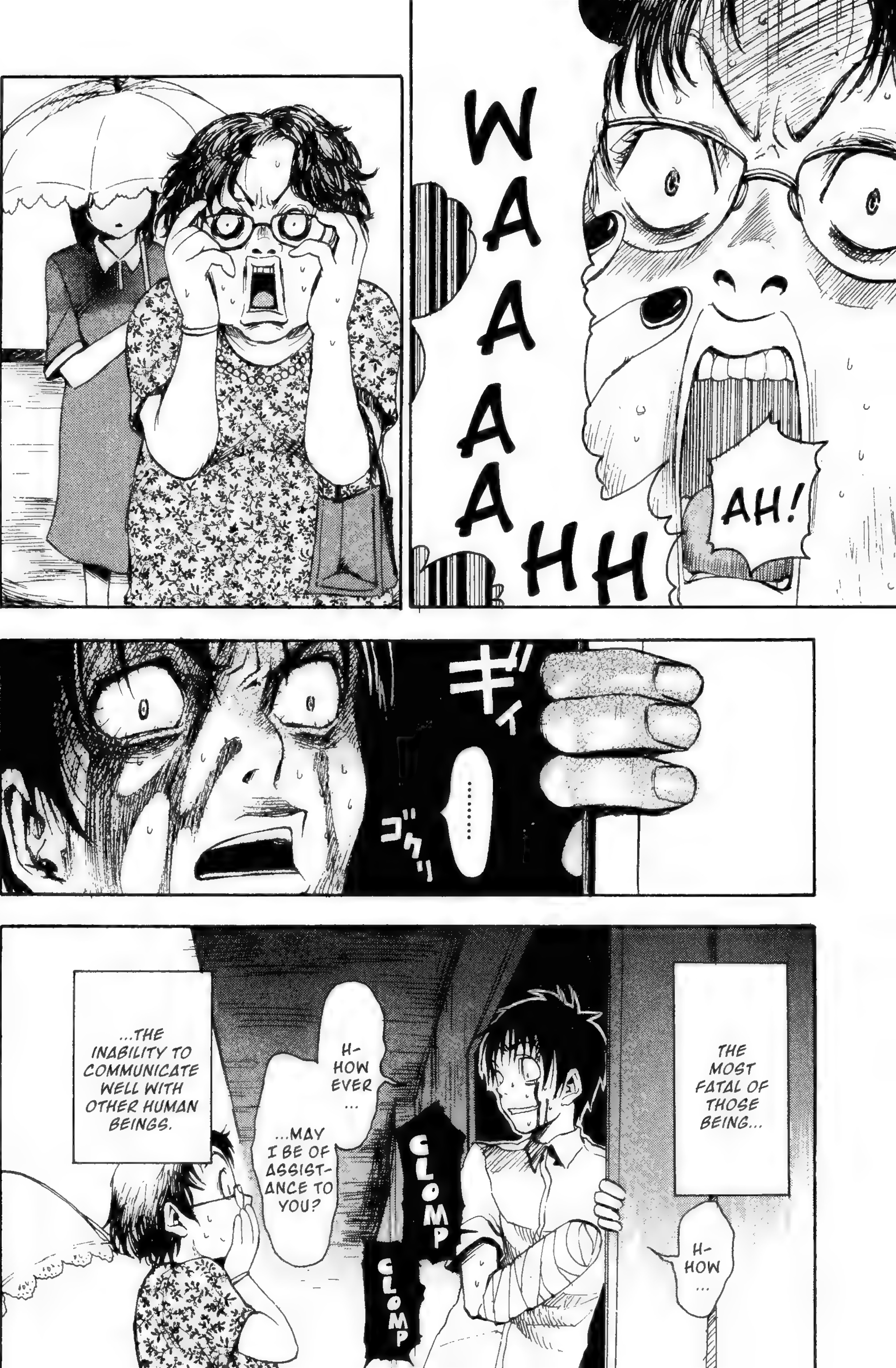
*See Glossary, p.180

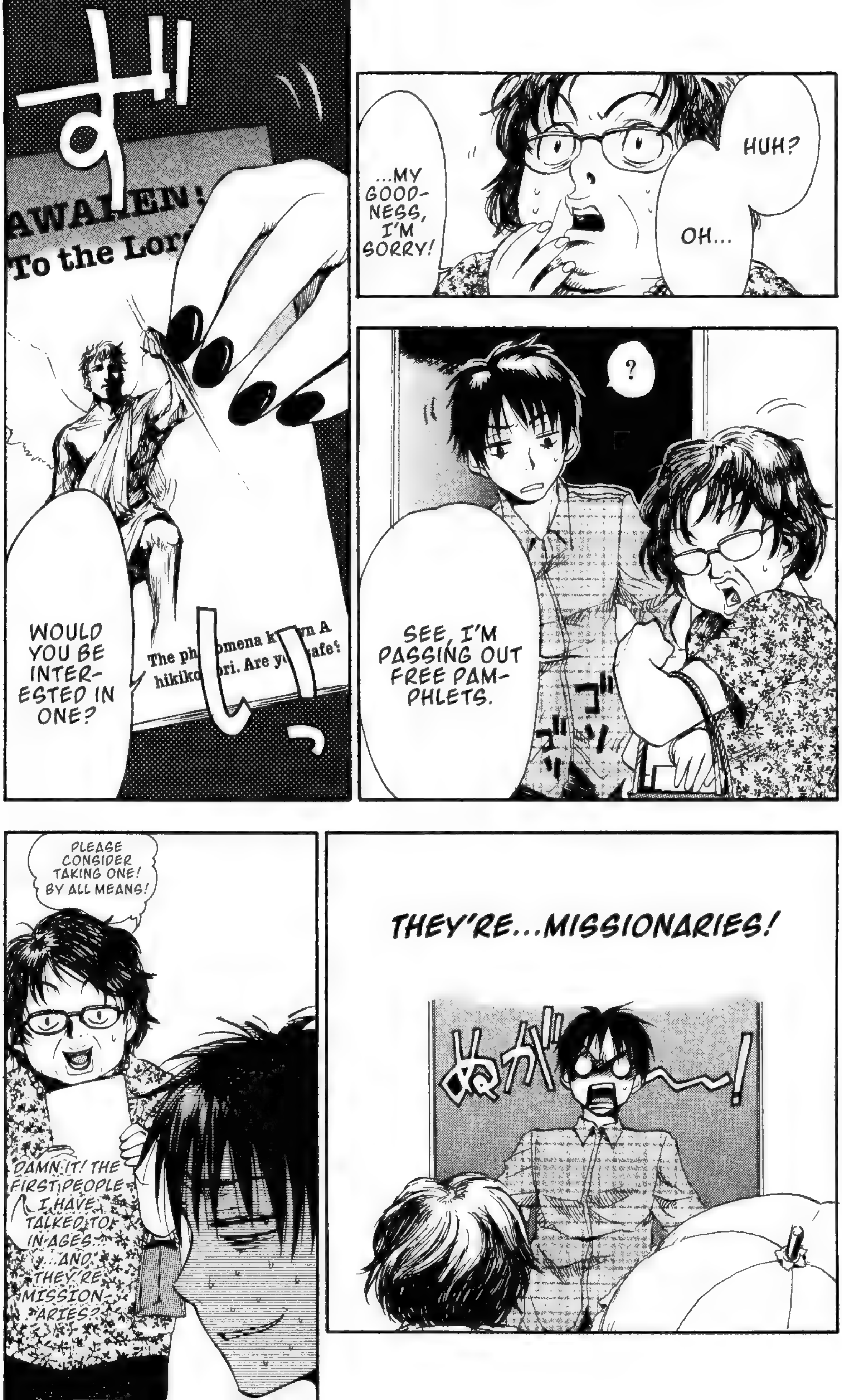

Who am I kidding?
I'm worse than a monkey.

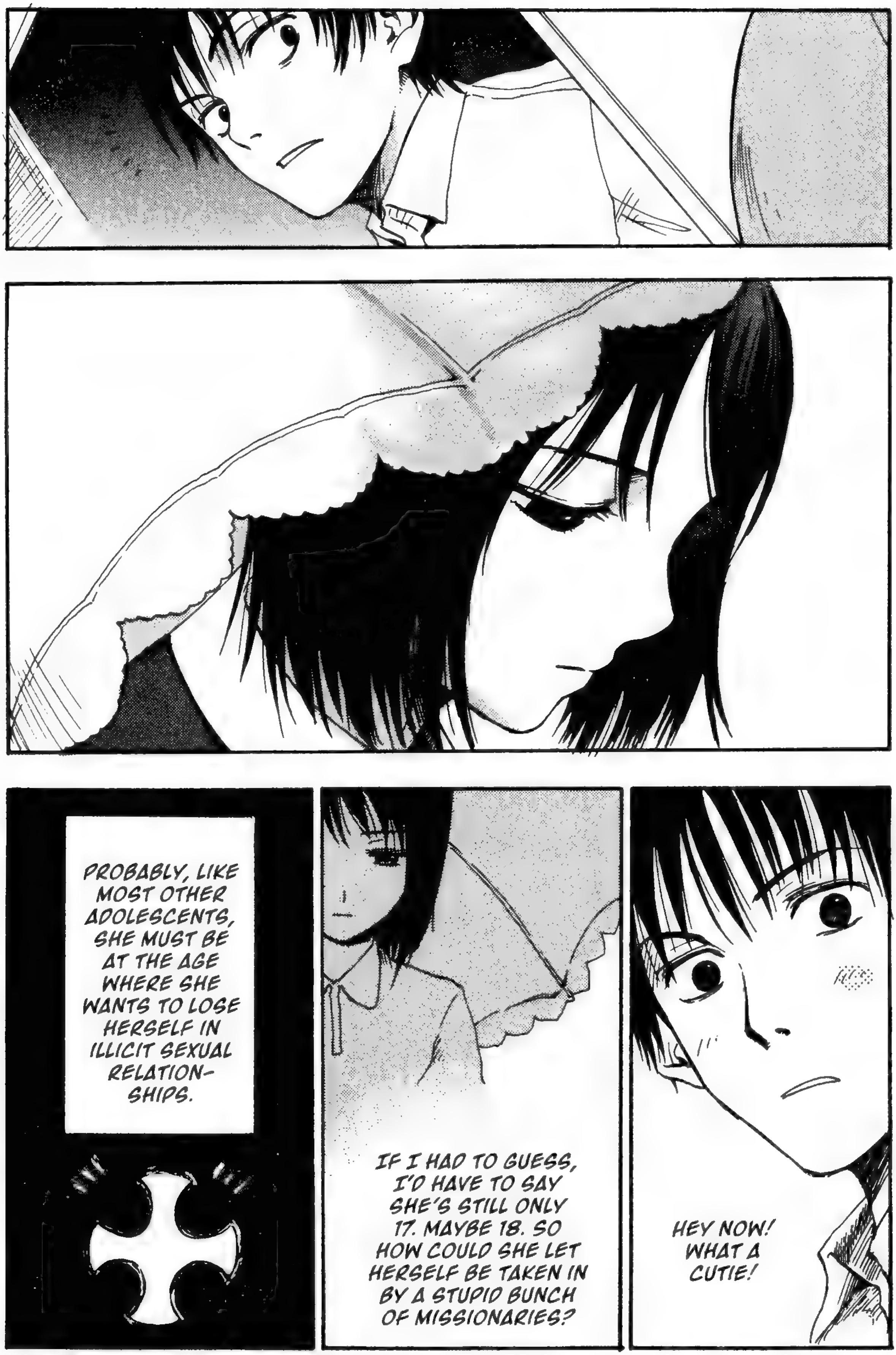
*See Glossary, p.180

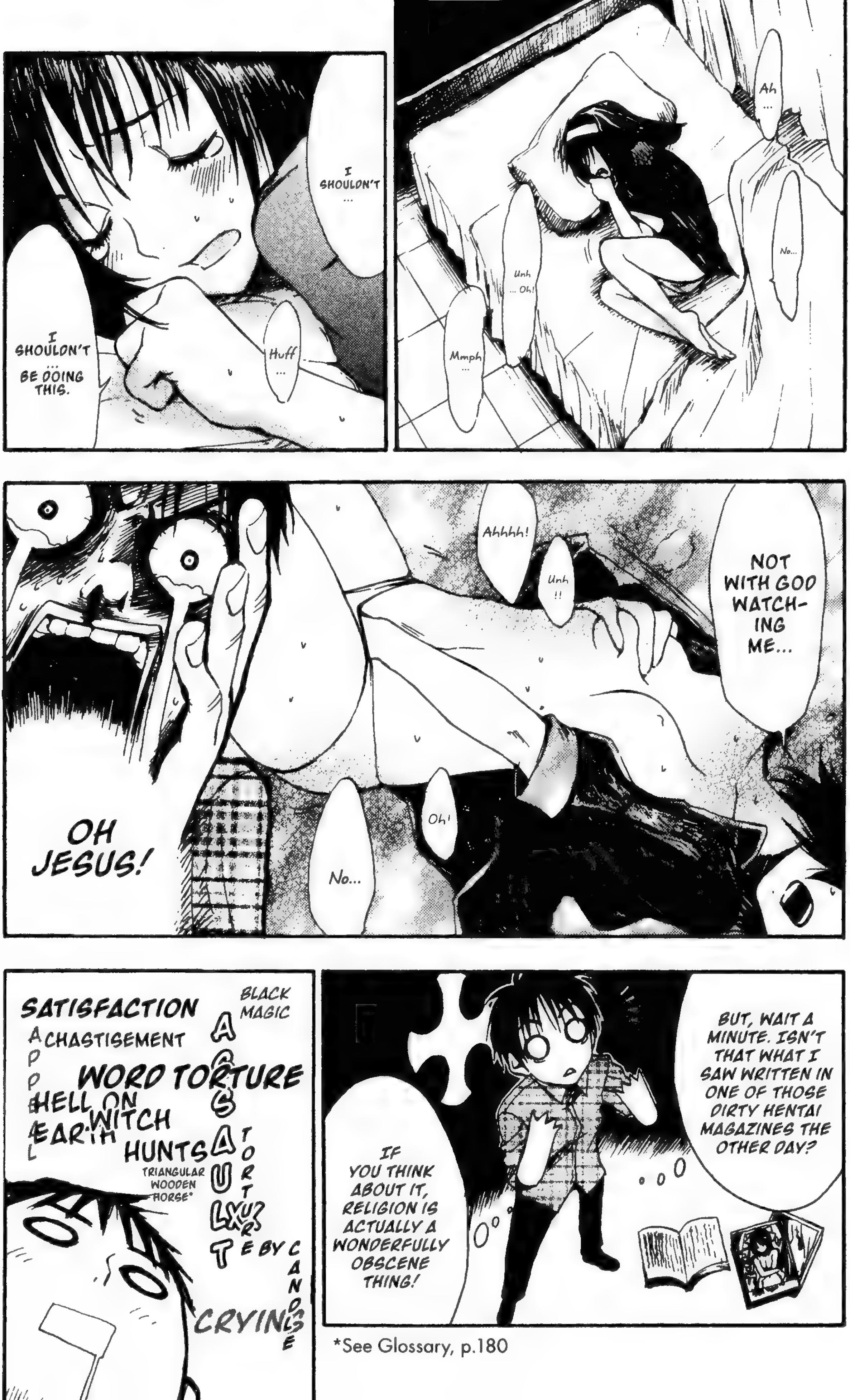

I mustn't run away. I mustn't run away. I mustn't run away.
I mustn't run away. ARGHH!!
But I'm so afraid of job interviews ...!
IT'S TRUE! I'M CURRENTLY A HIKIKOMORI THROUGH AND THROUGH!
I, SATOU TATSUHIRO, AGE 22, AM A PRIME EXAMPLE OF JAPAN'S SOCIAL PROBLEMS!
I'VE LOCKED MYSELF UP IN MY HOUSE... FOR FOUR YEARS!
I CAN COMPETE WITH THE AMOUNT OF TIME MR. OYAMA MASATATSU*, THE LEGENDARY KARATE MASTER, SECLUDED HIMSELF IN THE MOUNTAINS TO TRAIN IN HIS YOUNGER DAYS!


ゴソゴソ
ひょこ…
THAT MEANS THAT I MUST ALSO BE A MASTER BY NOW!
Haaaa!
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO BREAK AT LEAST A BOTTLE OF BEER WITH A SINGLE CHOP!
ゴゴゴゴ
HI-YAAA!
ガシャーン
DING DONG!
BUT, OF COURSE, IF YOU LOCK YOURSELF UP IN YOUR HOUSE FOR FOUR YEARS... THERE'S BOUND TO BE MANY NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES...
ブル
ブル
Is anybody home?

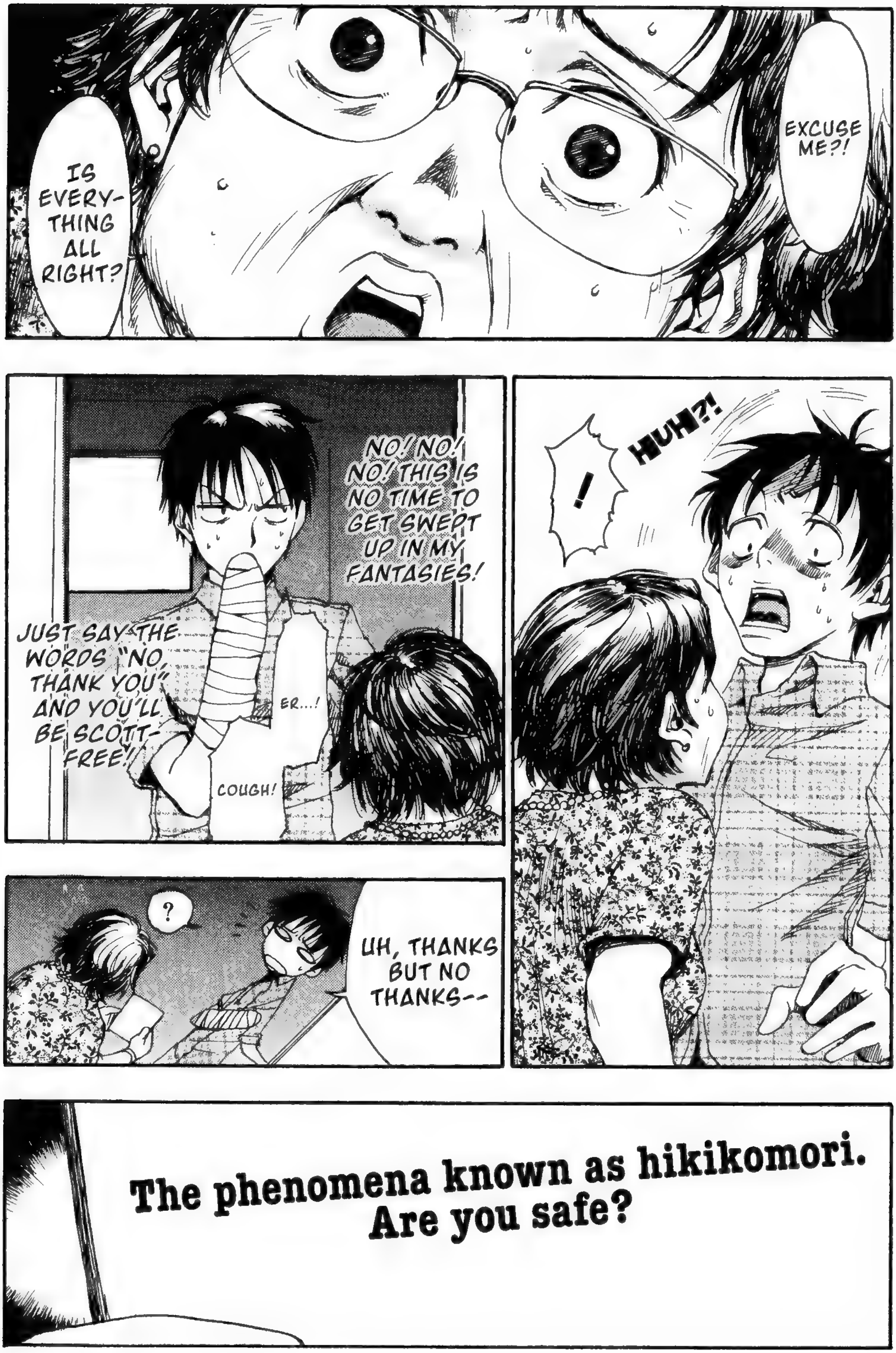

WAAAAHH
AH!
ギィ
......
ゴクッ
THE MOST FATAL OF THOSE BEING...
H- HOW ...
H- HOW EVER ...
...MAY I BE OF ASSISTANCE TO YOU?
CLOMP
CLOMP
...THE INABILITY TO COMMUNICATE WELL WITH OTHER HUMAN BEINGS.

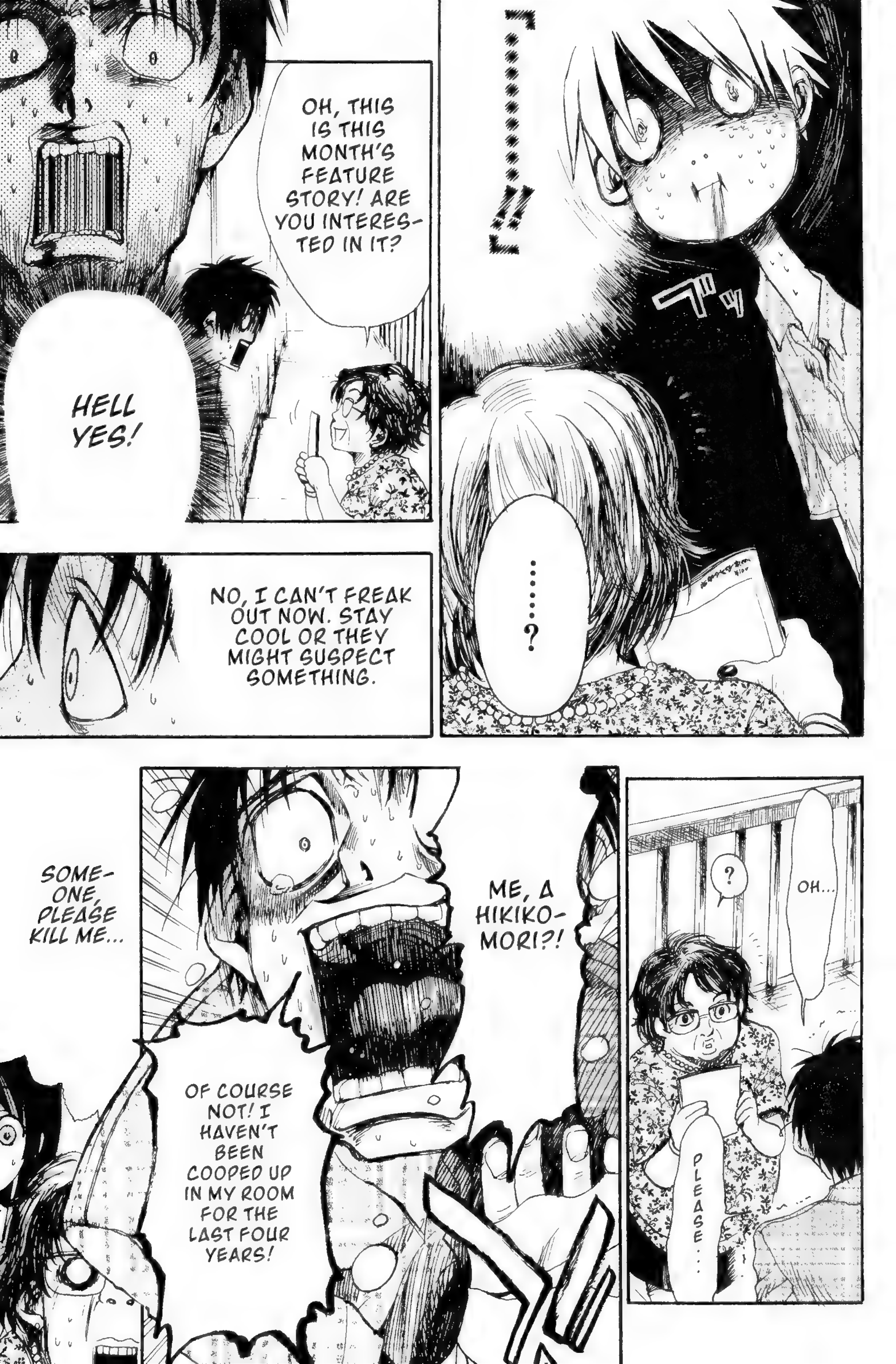

HUH?
OH...
...MY GOODNESS, I'M SORRY!
?
SEE, I'M PASSING OUT FREE PAMPHLETS.
ゴソゴソ
す
AWAKEN!
To the Lor
The ph omena k wn A
hikiko ori. Are yo safe?
しっ
WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN ONE?
THEY'RE...MISSIONARIES!
ぬがー!
PLEASE CONSIDER TAKING ONE! BY ALL MEANS!
DAMN IT! THE FIRST PEOPLE I HAVE TALKED TO IN AGES... ...AND THEY'RE MISSIONARIES?

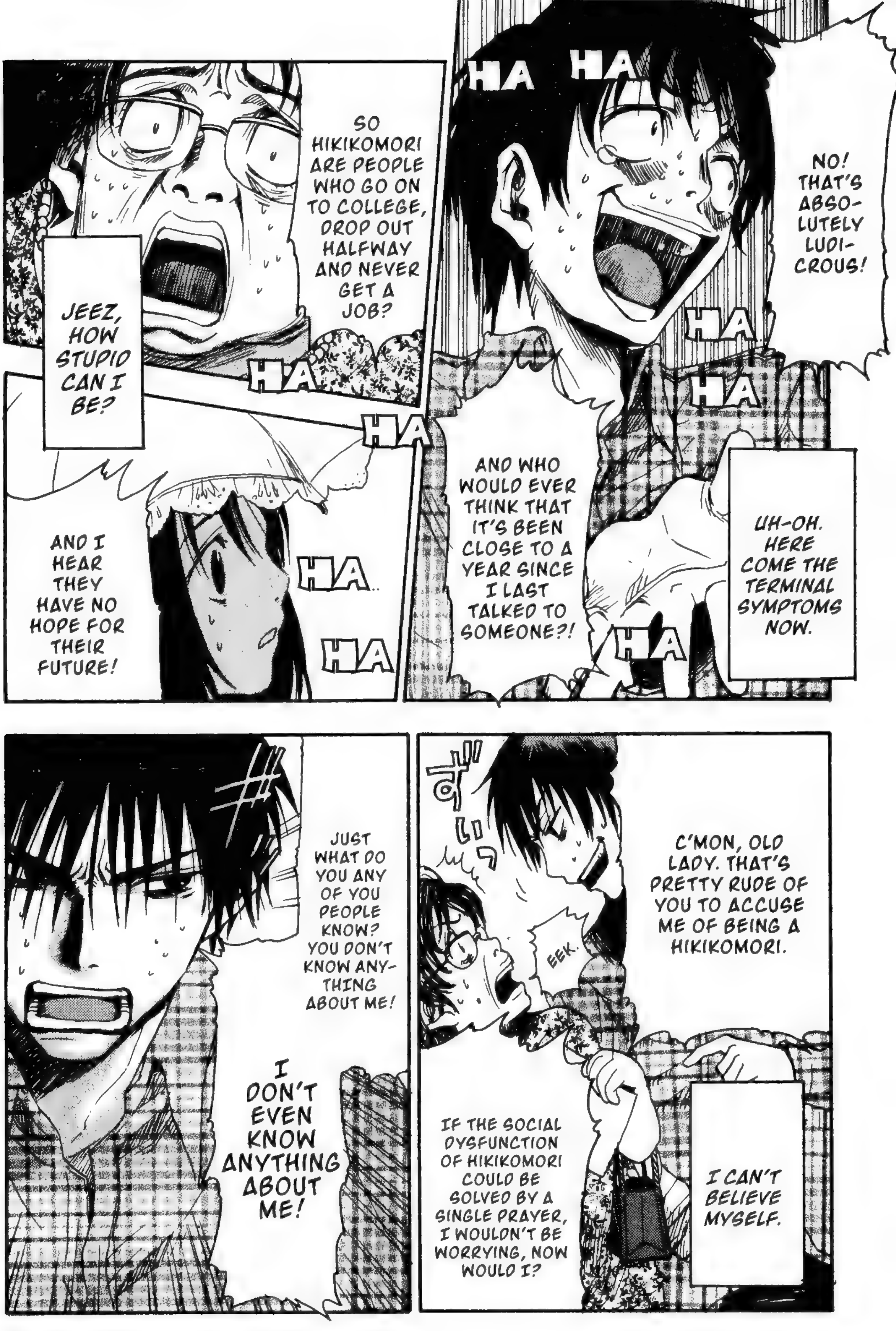

HEY NOW! WHAT A CUTIE!
IF I HAD TO GUESS, I'D HAVE TO SAY SHE'S STILL ONLY 17. MAYBE 18. SO HOW COULD SHE LET HERSELF BE TAKEN IN BY A STUPID BUNCH OF MISSIONARIES?
PROBABLY, LIKE MOST OTHER ADOLESCENTS, SHE MUST BE AT THE AGE WHERE SHE WANTS TO LOSE HERSELF IN ILLICIT SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS.

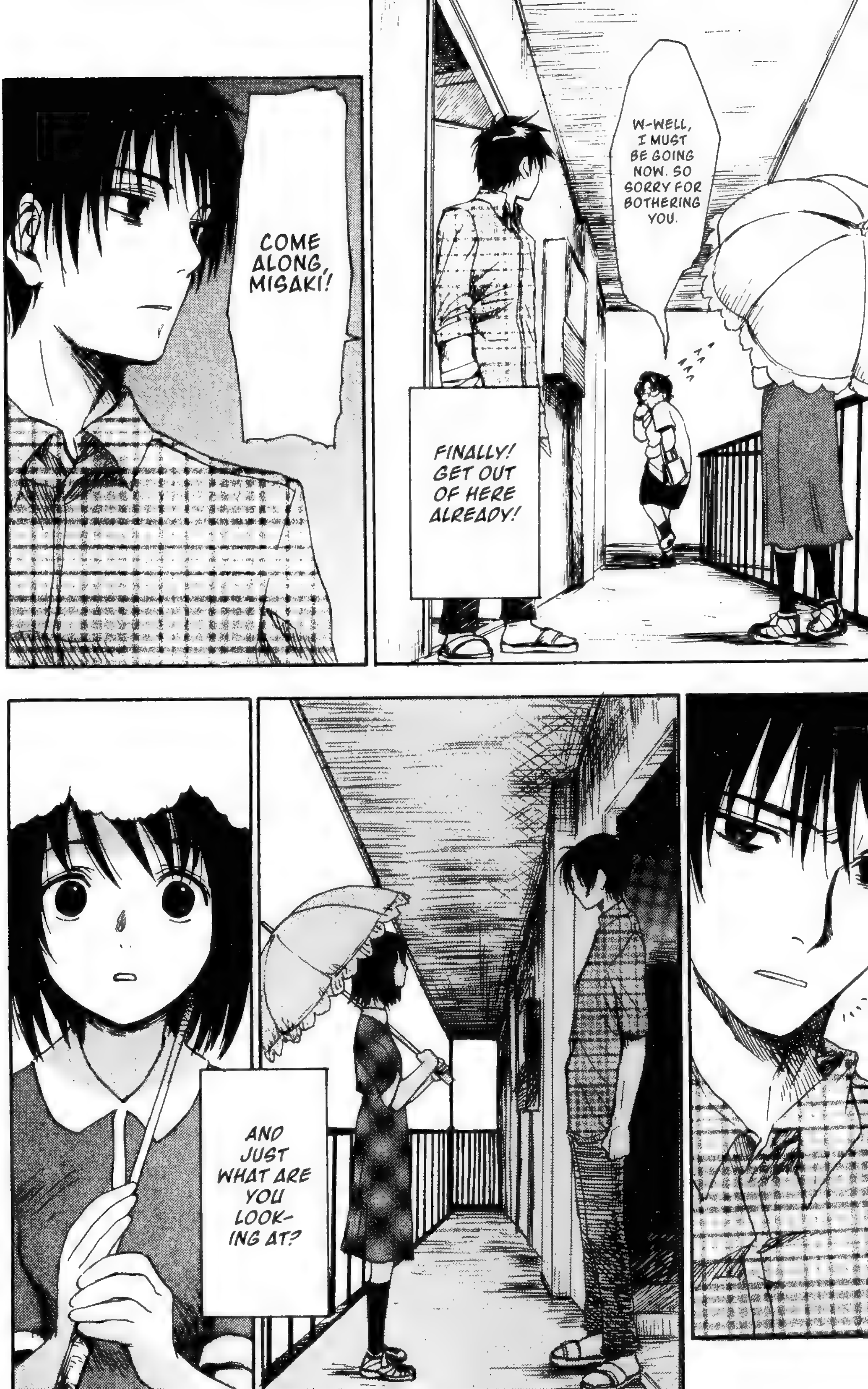

Ah ...
No...
Unh ... Oh!
Mmph ...
I SHOULDN'T ...
Huff ...
I SHOULDN'T BE DOING THIS.
NOT WITH GOD WATCHING ME...
Ahhhh!
Unh !!
Oh!
No...
OH JESUS!
BUT, WAIT A MINUTE. ISN'T THAT WHAT I SAW WRITTEN IN ONE OF THOSE DIRTY HENTAI MAGAZINES THE OTHER DAY?
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, RELIGION IS ACTUALLY A WONDERFULLY OBSCENE THING!
SATISFACTION
BLACK MAGIC
CHASTISEMENT
APPEAL
WORD TORTURE
ASSAULT
HELL ON EARTH
WITCH HUNTS
TRIANGULAR WOODEN HORSE*
TORTURE
TORTURE BY CANDLE
CRYIN

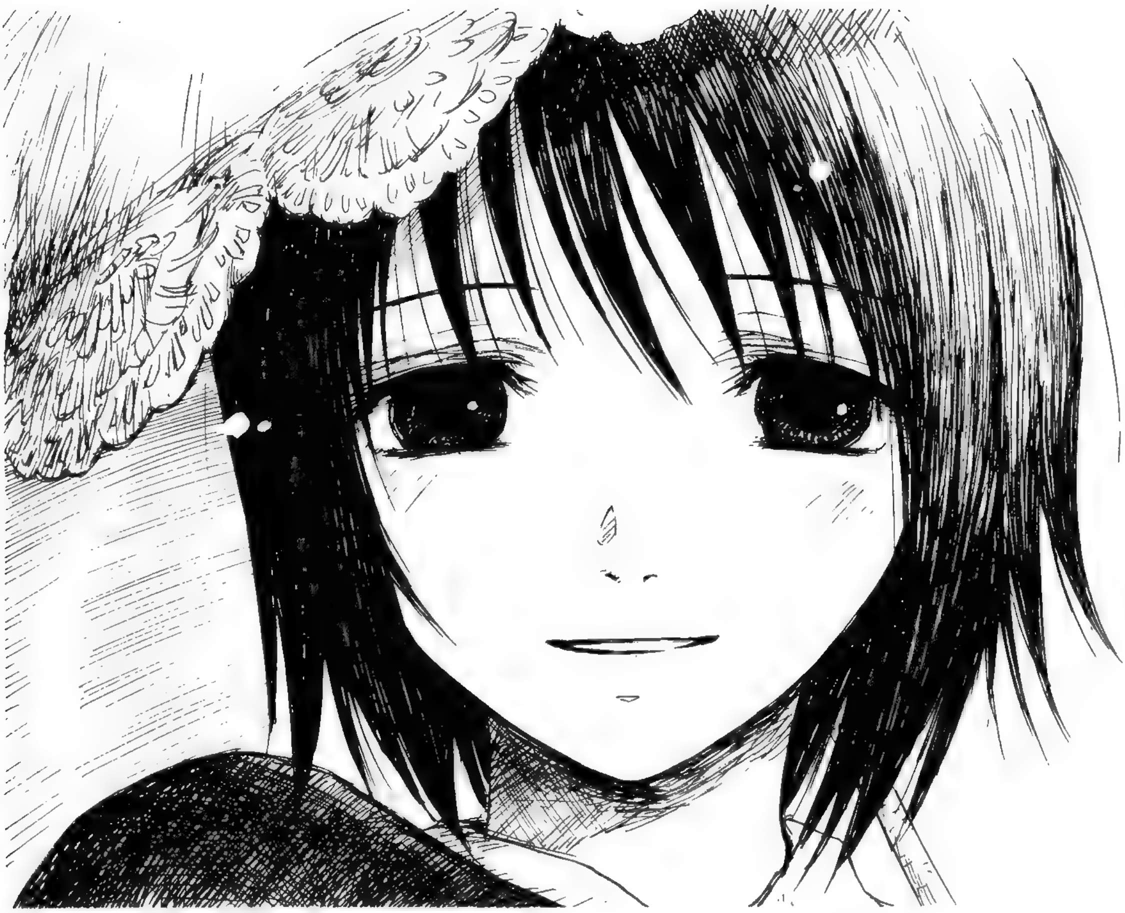
*See Glossary, p.180


EXCUSE ME?!
IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
!
HUH?!
NO! NO! NO! THIS IS NO TIME TO GET SWEPT UP IN MY FANTASIES!
JUST SAY THE WORDS "NO, THANK YOU" AND YOU'LL BE SCOTT-FREE!
ER...!
COUGH!
?
UH, THANKS BUT NO THANKS--
The phenomena known as hikikomori. Are you safe?

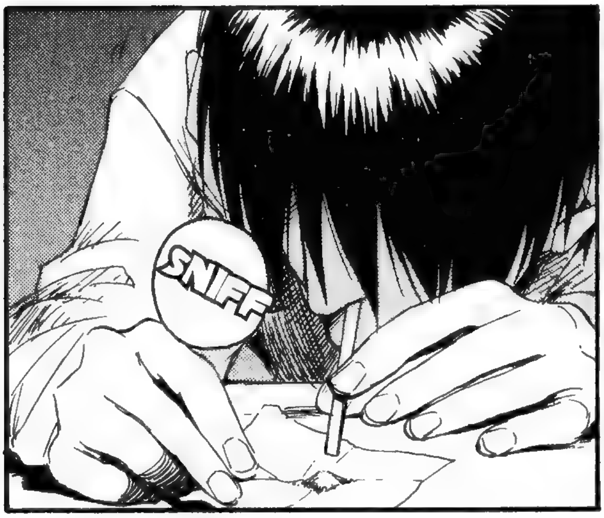

「……!!」
ブッ
……?
OH, THIS IS THIS MONTH'S FEATURE STORY! ARE YOU INTERESTED IN IT?
HELL YES!
NO, I CAN'T FREAK OUT NOW. STAY COOL OR THEY MIGHT SUSPECT SOMETHING.
OH...
?
PLEASE...
ME, A HIKIKOMORI?!
OF COURSE NOT! I HAVEN'T BEEN COOPED UP IN MY ROOM FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS!
SOMEONE, PLEASE KILL ME...

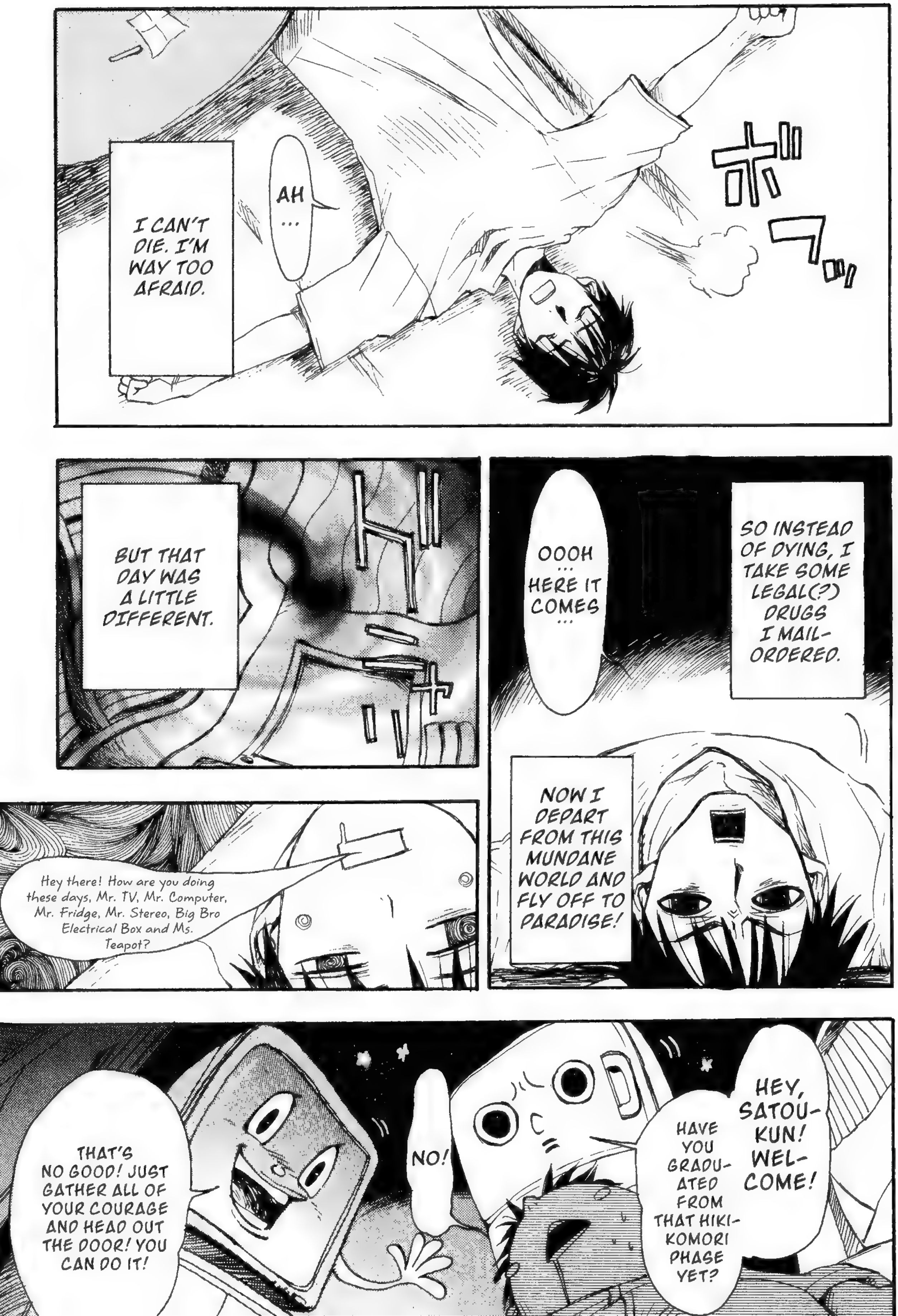

HA HA
NO! THAT'S ABSOLUTELY LUDICROUS!
HA
HA
UH-OH. HERE COME THE TERMINAL SYMPTOMS NOW.
AND WHO WOULD EVER THINK THAT IT'S BEEN CLOSE TO A YEAR SINCE I LAST TALKED TO SOMEONE?!
HA
SO HIKIKOMORI ARE PEOPLE WHO GO ON TO COLLEGE, DROP OUT HALFWAY AND NEVER GET A JOB?
JEEZ, HOW STUPID CAN I BE?
HA
HA
HA..
HA
AND I HEAR THEY HAVE NO HOPE FOR THEIR FUTURE!
ずいっ
C'MON, OLD LADY. THAT'S PRETTY RUDE OF YOU TO ACCUSE ME OF BEING A HIKIKOMORI.
EEK.
I CAN'T BELIEVE MYSELF.
IF THE SOCIAL DYSFUNCTION OF HIKIKOMORI COULD BE SOLVED BY A SINGLE PRAYER, I WOULDN'T BE WORRYING, NOW WOULD I?
JUST WHAT DO YOU ANY OF YOU PEOPLE KNOW? YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME!
I DON'T EVEN KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME!

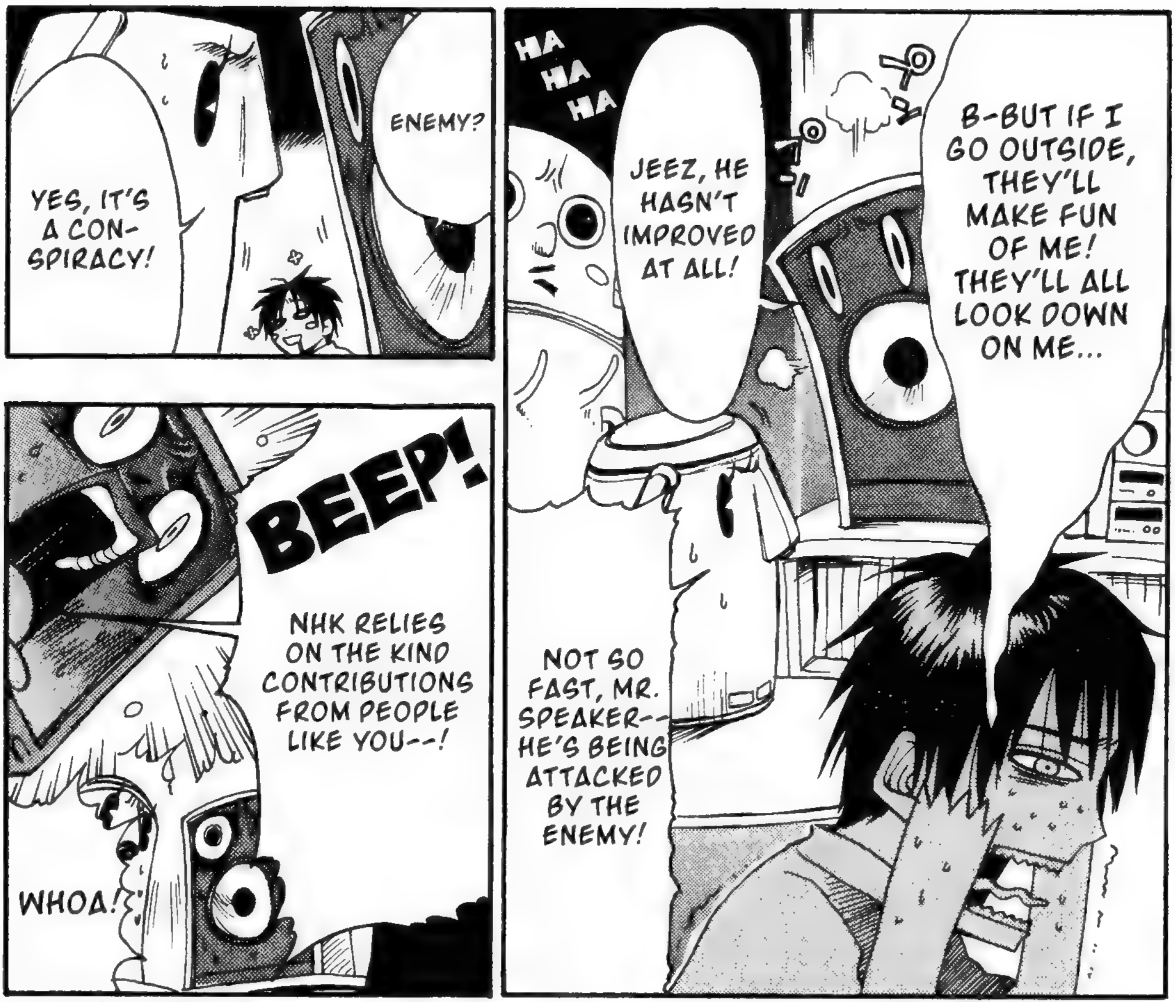

W-WELL, I MUST BE GOING NOW. SO SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU.
FINALLY! GET OUT OF HERE ALREADY!
COME ALONG, MISAKI!
AND JUST WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?



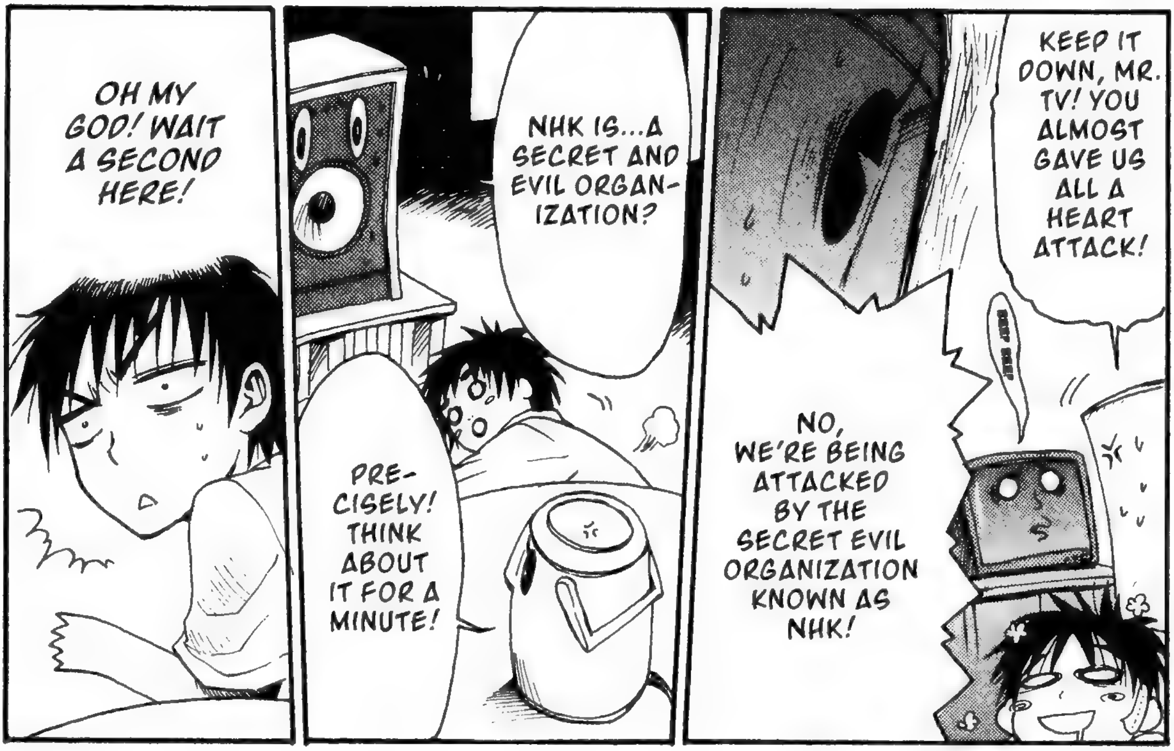
I OUGHT TO DIE.

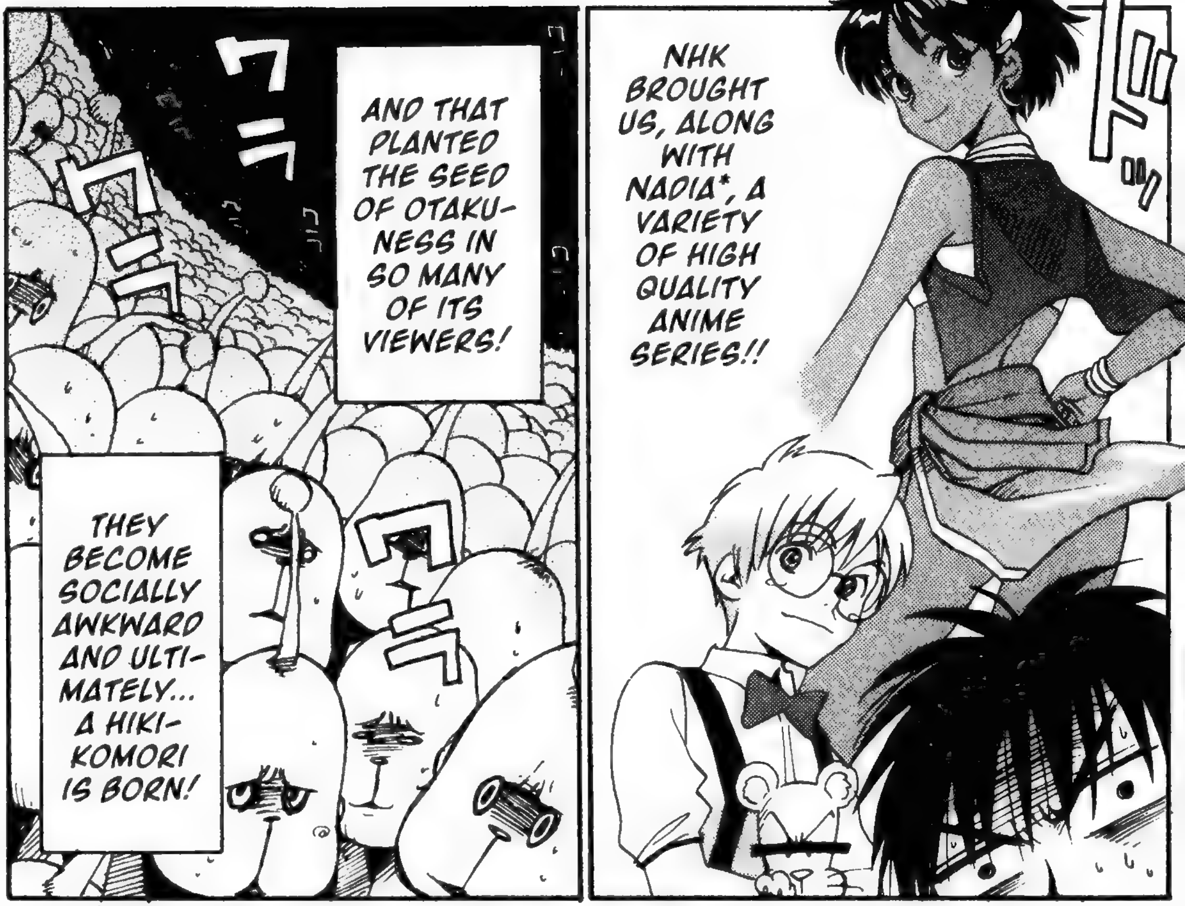



ボフッ
AH …
I CAN'T DIE. I'M WAY TOO AFRAID.
SO INSTEAD OF DYING, I TAKE SOME LEGAL(?) DRUGS I MAIL-ORDERED.
OOOH … HERE IT COMES …
NOW I DEPART FROM THIS MUNDANE WORLD AND FLY OFF TO PARADISE!
BUT THAT DAY WAS A LITTLE DIFFERENT.
Hey there! How are you doing these days, Mr. TV, Mr. Computer, Mr. Fridge, Mr. Stereo, Big Bro Electrical Box and Ms. Teapot?
HEY, SATOU-KUN! WEL-COME!
HAVE YOU GRADUATED FROM THAT HIKIKOMORI PHASE YET?
NO!
THAT'S NO GOOD! JUST GATHER ALL OF YOUR COURAGE AND HEAD OUT THE DOOR! YOU CAN DO IT!


B-BUT IF I GO OUTSIDE, THEY'LL MAKE FUN OF ME! THEY'LL ALL LOOK DOWN ON ME...
JEEZ, HE HASN'T IMPROVED AT ALL!
HA HA HA
NOT SO FAST, MR. SPEAKER--HE'S BEING ATTACKED BY THE ENEMY!
ENEMY?
YES, IT'S A CONSPIRACY!
BEEP!
NHK RELIES ON THE KIND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PEOPLE LIKE YOU--!
WHOA!

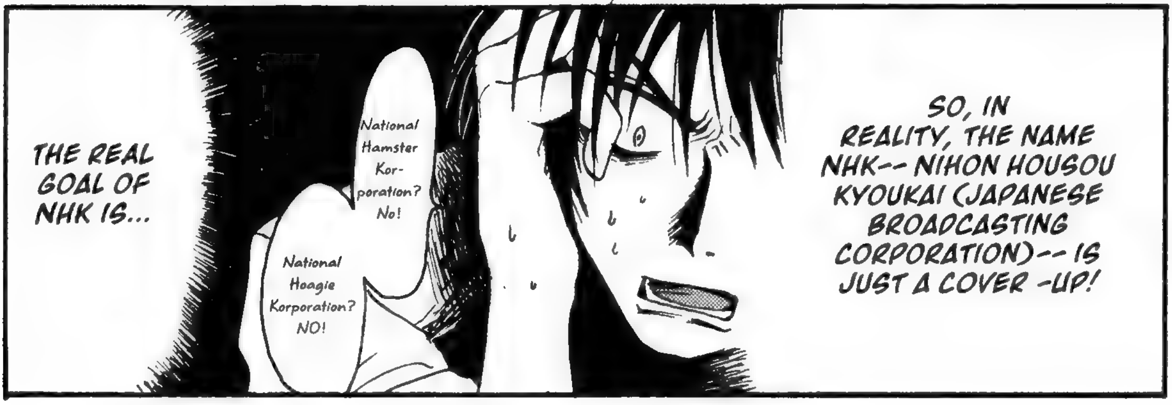
*See Glossary, p.180


KEEP IT DOWN, MR. TV! YOU ALMOST GAVE US ALL A HEART ATTACK!
BEEP BEEP
NO, WE'RE BEING ATTACKED BY THE SECRET EVIL ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS NHK!
NHK IS...A SECRET AND EVIL ORGANIZATION?
PRECISELY! THINK ABOUT IT FOR A MINUTE!
OH MY GOD! WAIT A SECOND HERE!

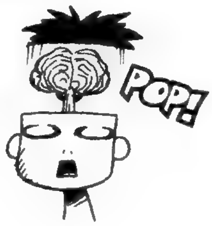

NHK BROUGHT US, ALONG WITH NADIA*, A VARIETY OF HIGH QUALITY ANIME SERIES!!
AND THAT PLANTED THE SEED OF OTAKUNESS IN SO MANY OF ITS VIEWERS!
THEY BECOME SOCIALLY AWKWARD AND ULTIMATELY... A HIKIKOMORI IS BORN!

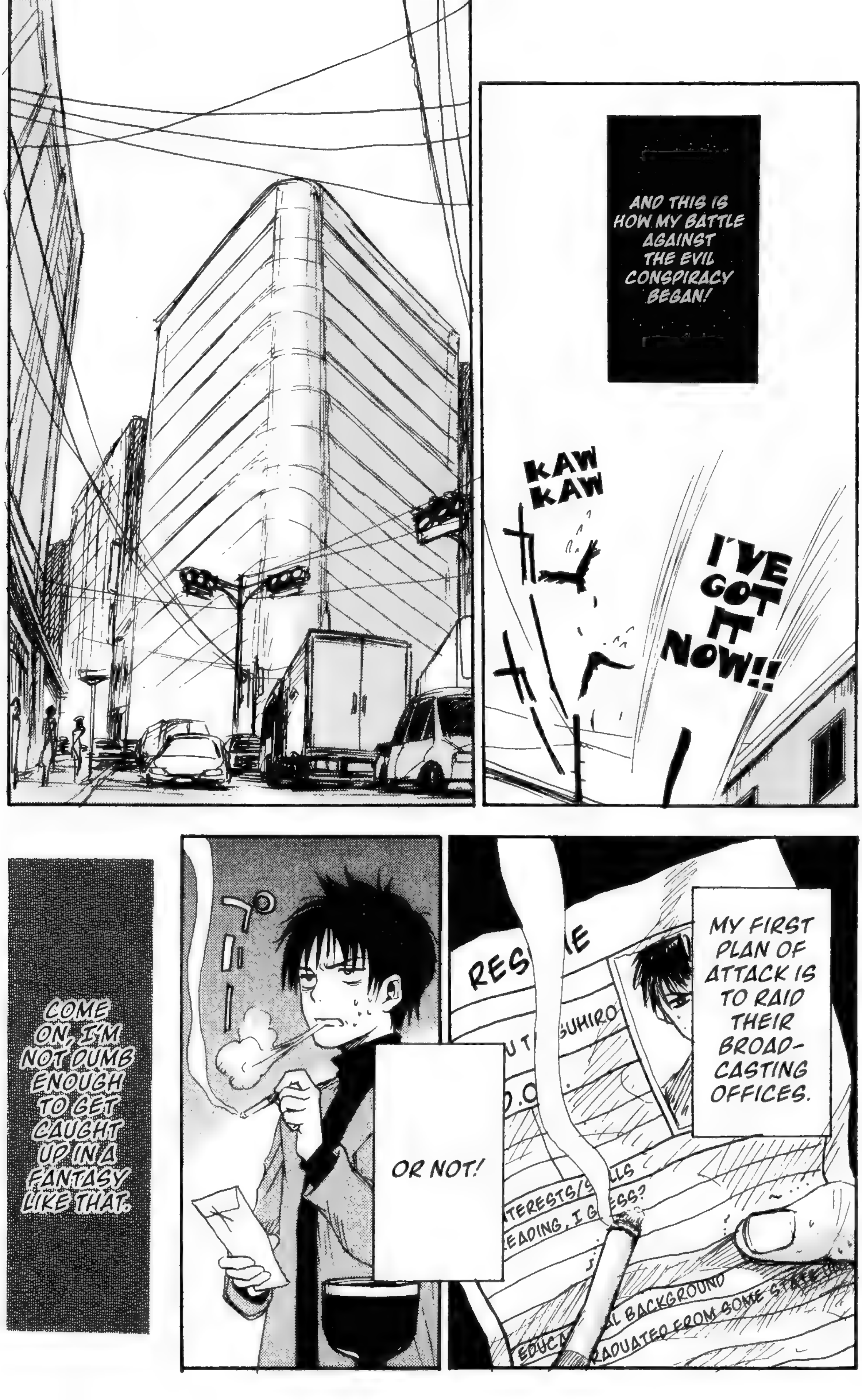
*See Glossary, p.180

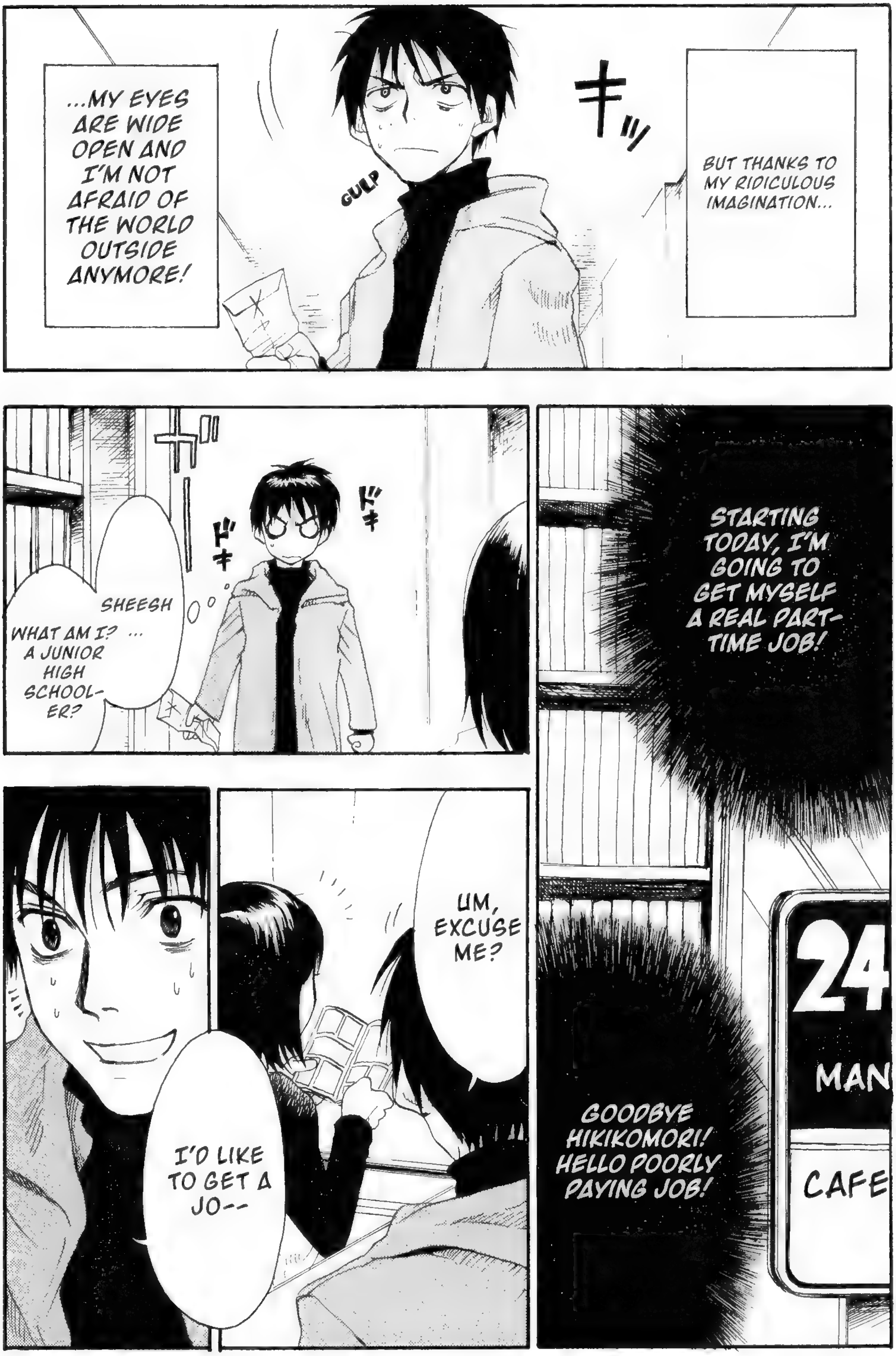
They don't look like the real characters at all! I have my limits! ('з`);

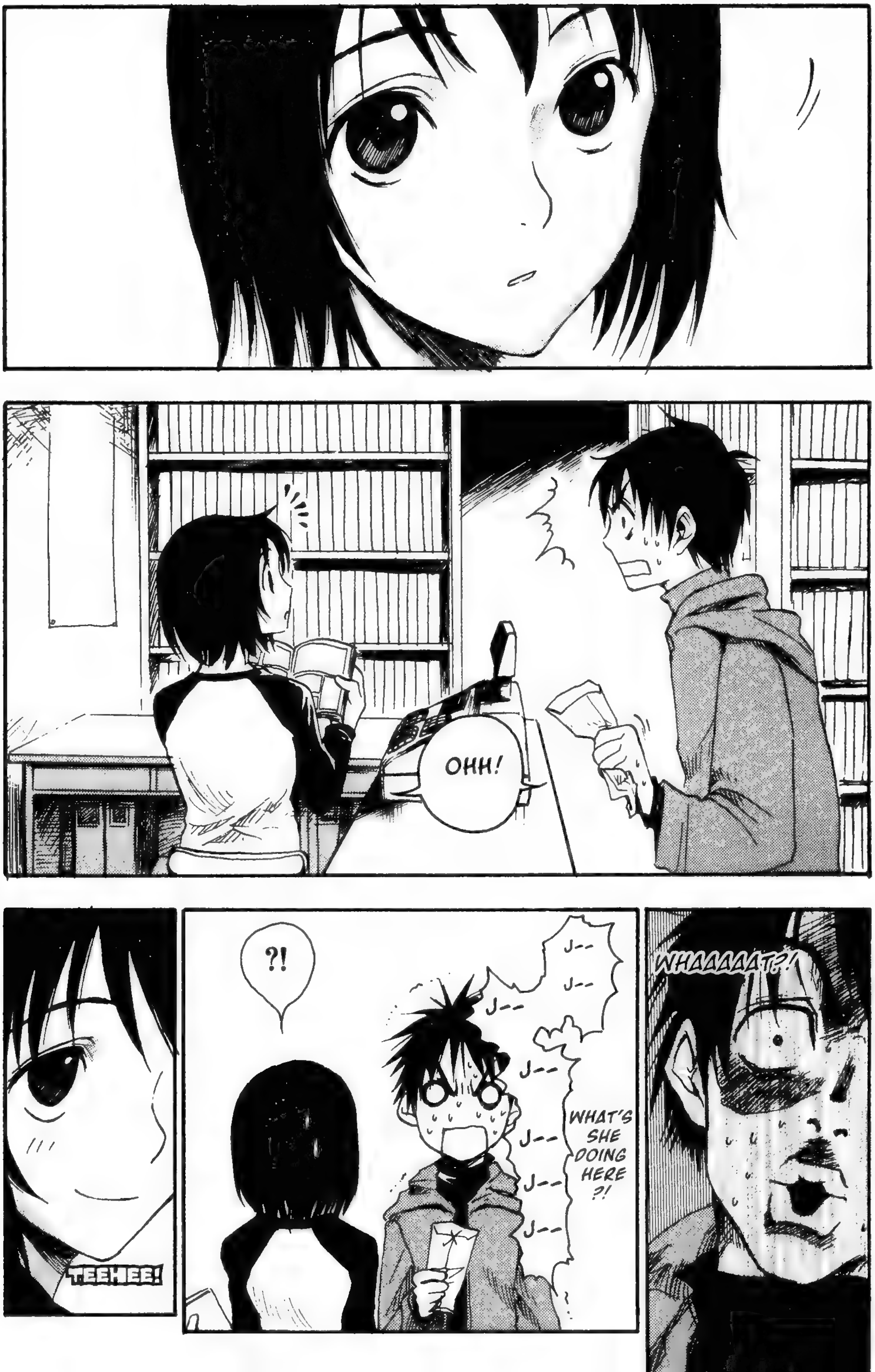

SO, IN REALITY, THE NAME NHK-- NIHON HOUSOU KYOUKAI (JAPANESE BROADCASTING CORPORATION)-- IS JUST A COVER-UP!
National Hamster Korporation? No!
National Hoagie Korporation? NO!
THE REAL GOAL OF NHK IS...

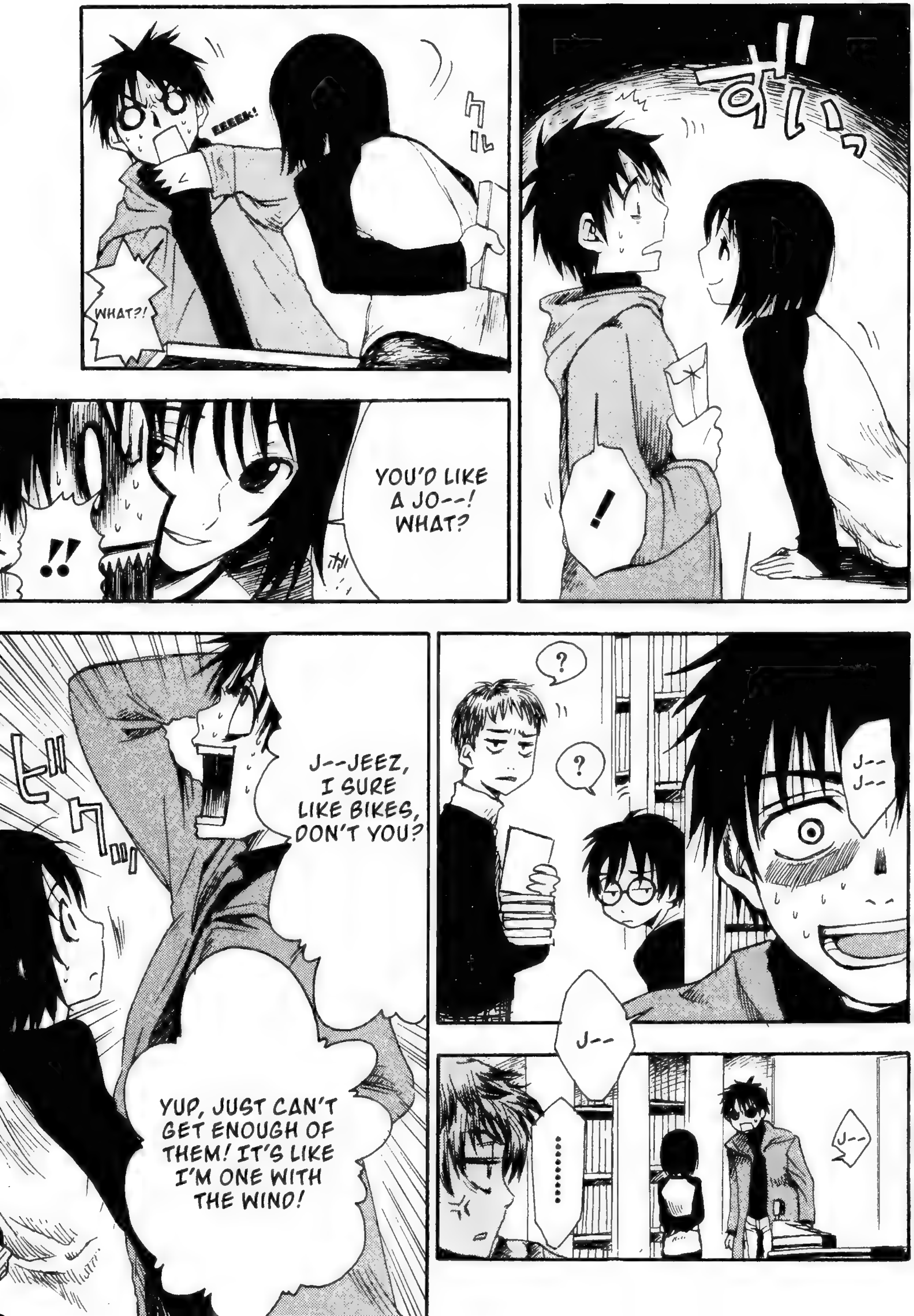
N = Nihon H = Hikikomori K = Kyoukai

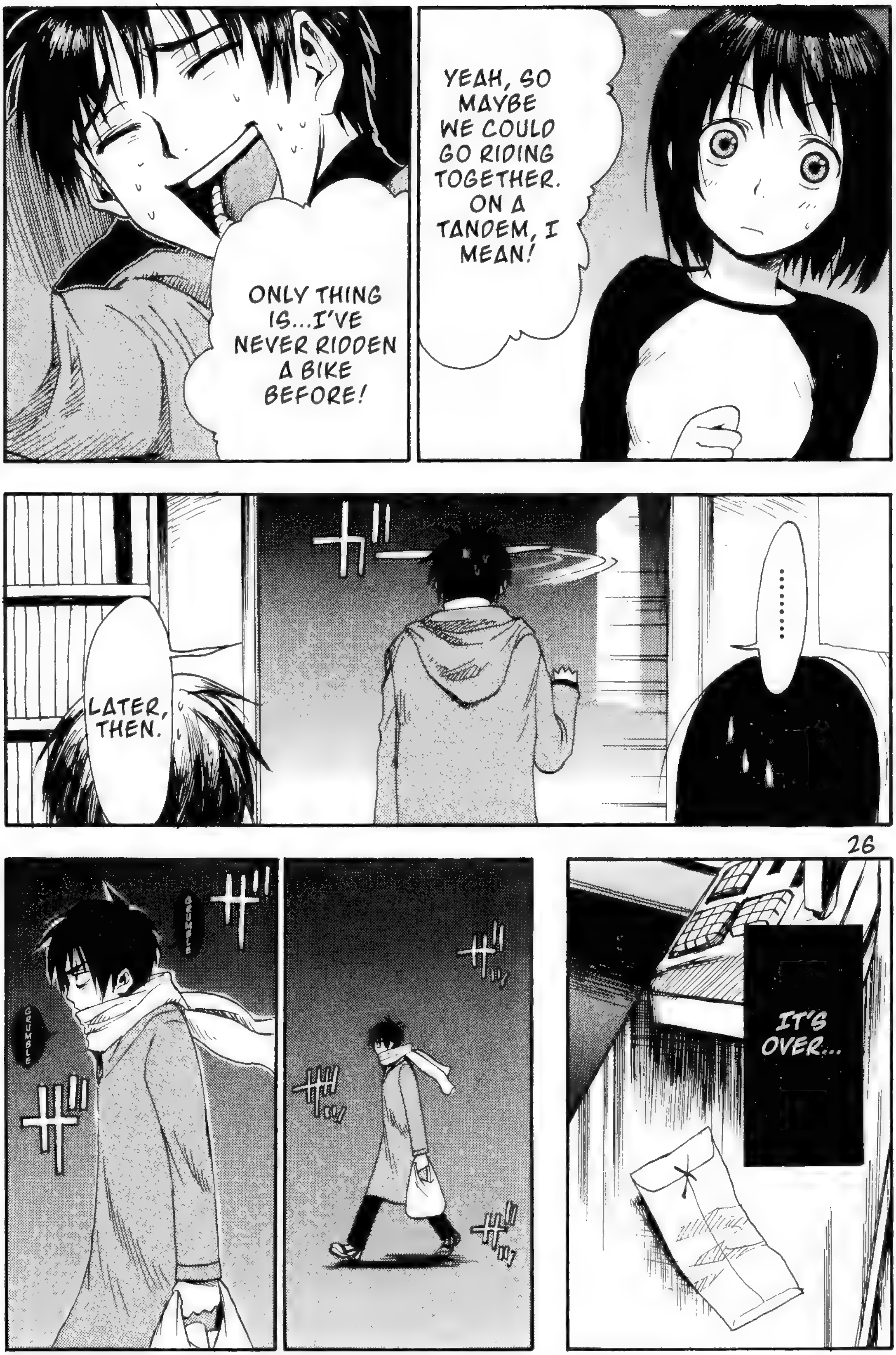


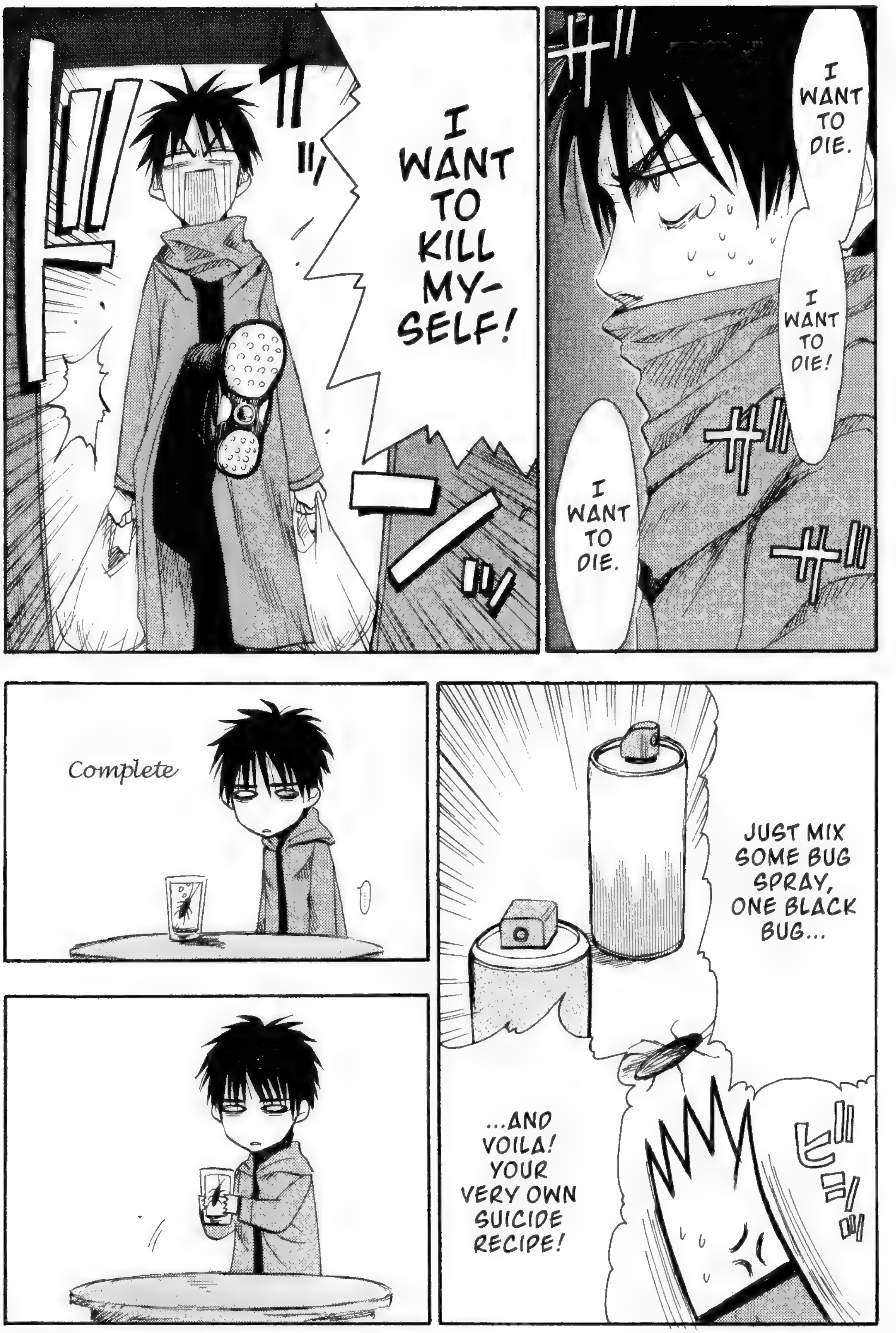

AND THIS IS HOW MY BATTLE AGAINST THE EVIL CONSPIRACY BEGAN!
KAW KAW
I'VE GOT IT NOW!!
MY FIRST PLAN OF ATTACK IS TO RAID THEIR BROAD-CASTING OFFICES.
RES ME
SUHIRO
INTERESTS/S ILLS
READING, I G ESS?
EDUCA AL BACKGROUND
RADUATED FROM SOME STATE
OR NOT!
COME ON, I'M NOT DUMB ENOUGH TO GET CAUGHT UP IN A FANTASY LIKE THAT.

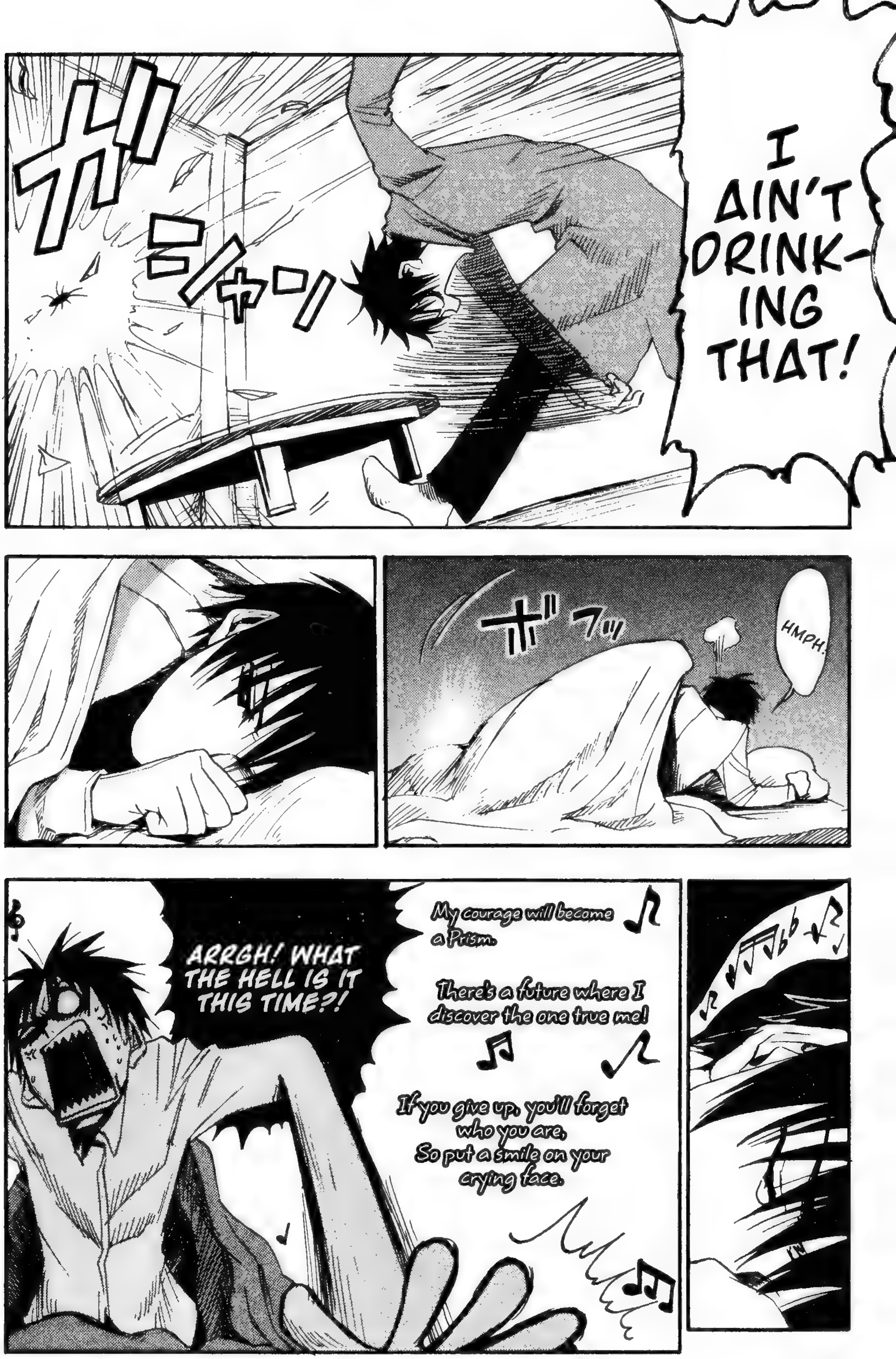

...MY EYES ARE WIDE OPEN AND I'M NOT AFRAID OF THE WORLD OUTSIDE ANYMORE!
GULP
キッ
BUT THANKS TO MY RIDICULOUS IMAGINATION...
ガー
ドキ
ドキ
SHEESH
WHAT AM I? ... A JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLER?
STARTING TODAY, I'M GOING TO GET MYSELF A REAL PART-TIME JOB!
GOODBYE HIKIKOMORI! HELLO POORLY PAYING JOB!
24
MAN
CAFE
UM, EXCUSE ME?
I'D LIKE TO GET A JO--

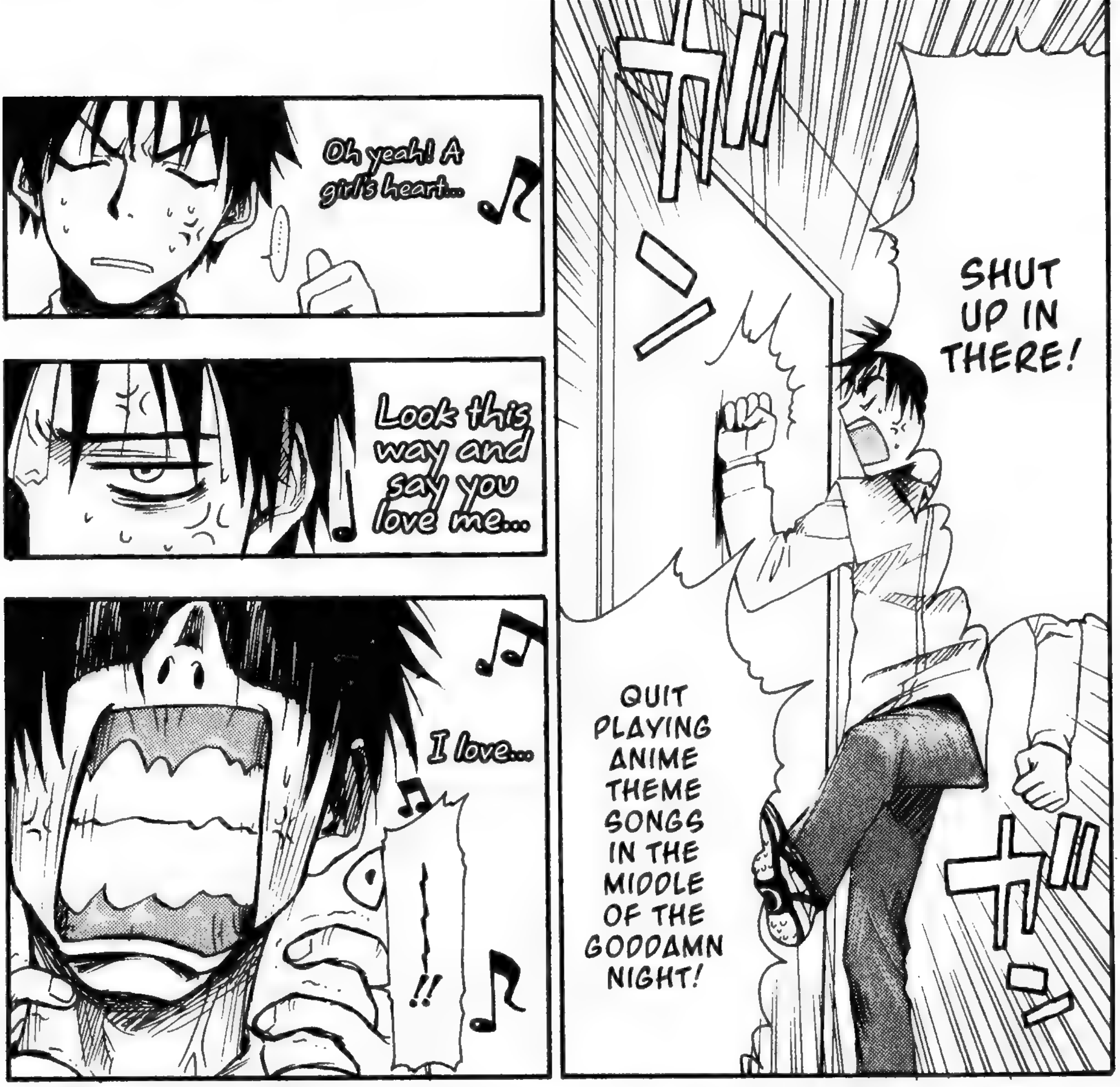

OHH!
WHAAAAAT?!
J-- J-- J-- J-- J-- J-- J--
WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE?!
?!
TEEHEE!


ずいっ
!
WHAT?!
EEEEK!
YOU'D LIKE A JO--! WHAT?
!!
?
?
J-- J--
J--
....
J--
J--JEEZ, I SURE LIKE BIKES, DON'T YOU?
YUP, JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF THEM! IT'S LIKE I'M ONE WITH THE WIND!

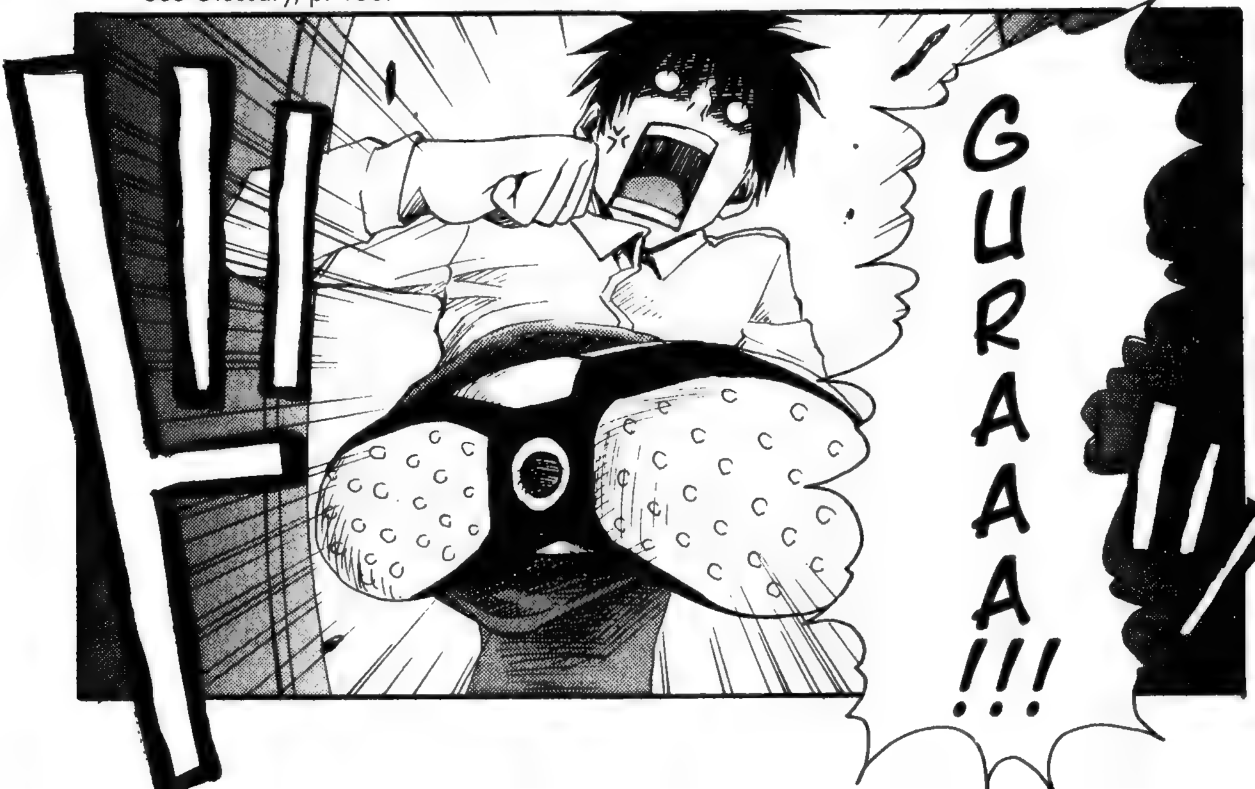

YEAH, SO MAYBE WE COULD GO RIDING TOGETHER. ON A TANDEM, I MEAN!
ONLY THING IS...I'VE NEVER RIDDEN A BIKE BEFORE!
ザッ
....
LATER, THEN.
IT'S OVER...
ザッ
ザッ
ザッ
ザッ
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
ザッ

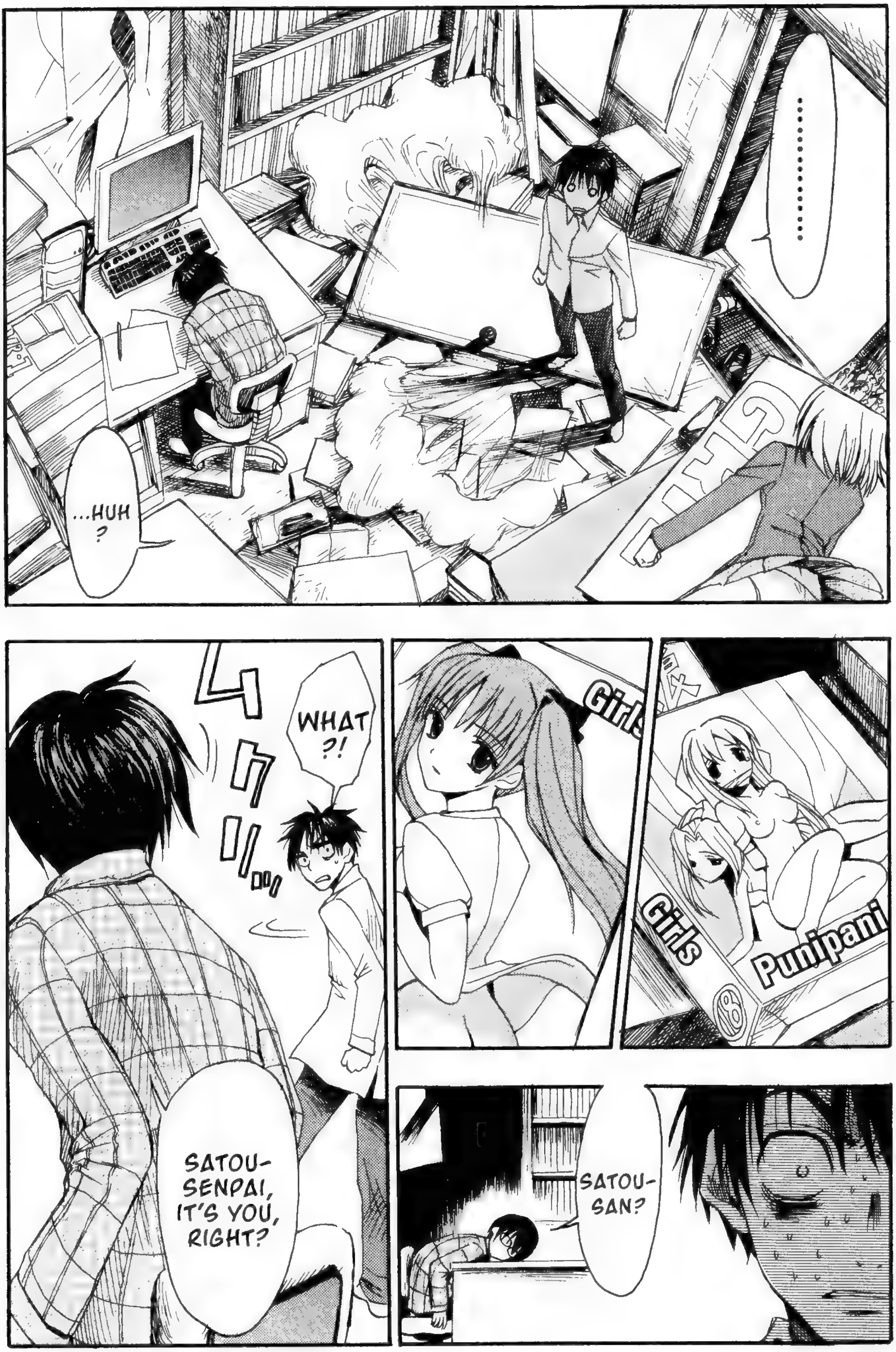

I WANT TO DIE.
I WANT TO DIE!
I WANT TO DIE.
I WANT TO KILL MYSELF!
JUST MIX SOME BUG SPRAY, ONE BLACK BUG...
...AND VOILA! YOUR VERY OWN SUICIDE RECIPE!
Complete

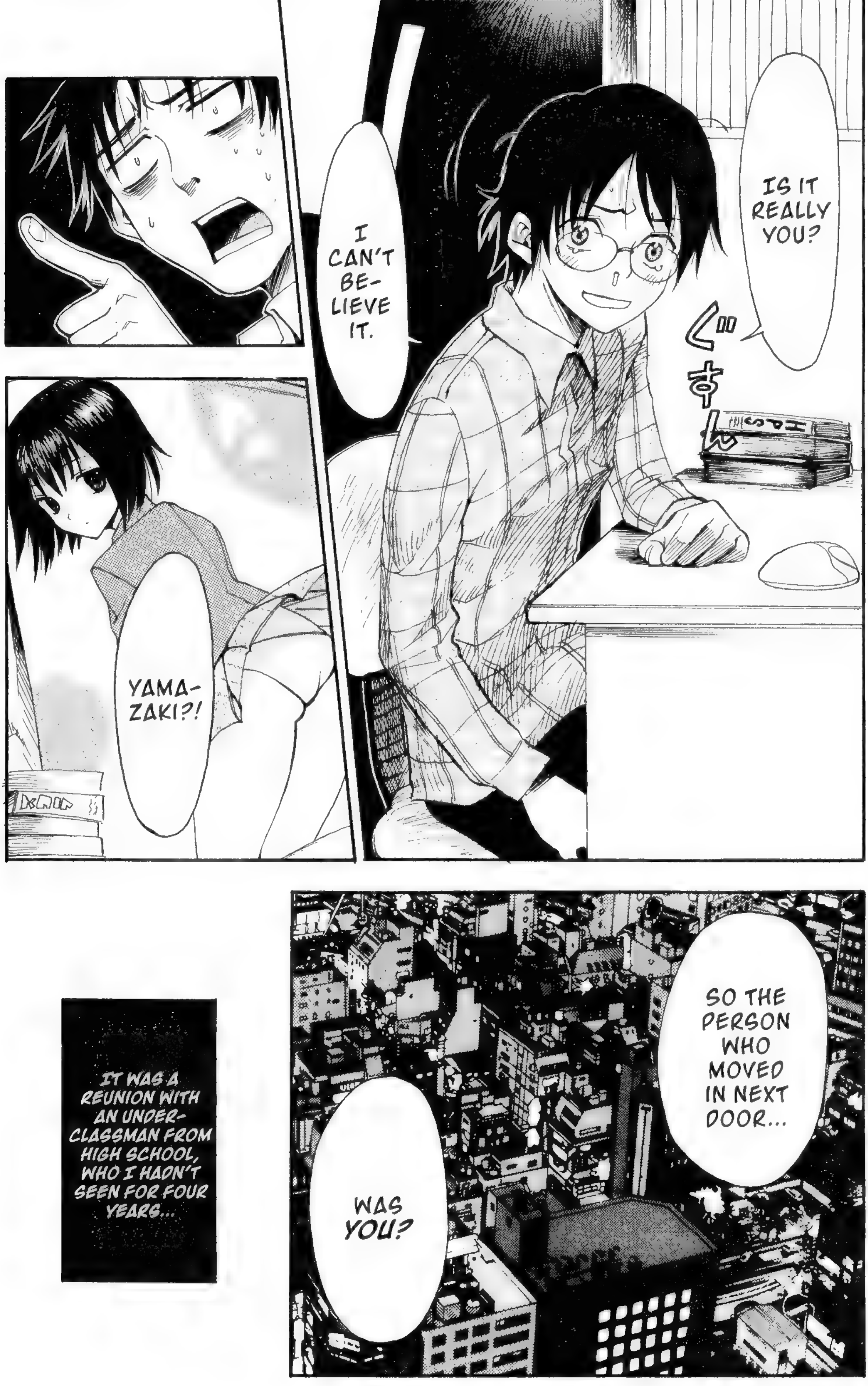

I AIN'T DRINKING THAT!
ガシャーン
ボフッ
HMPH.
My courage will become a Prism.
There's a future where I discover the one true me!
If you give up, you'll forget who you are,
So put a smile on your crying face.
ARRGH! WHAT THE HELL IS IT THIS TIME?!

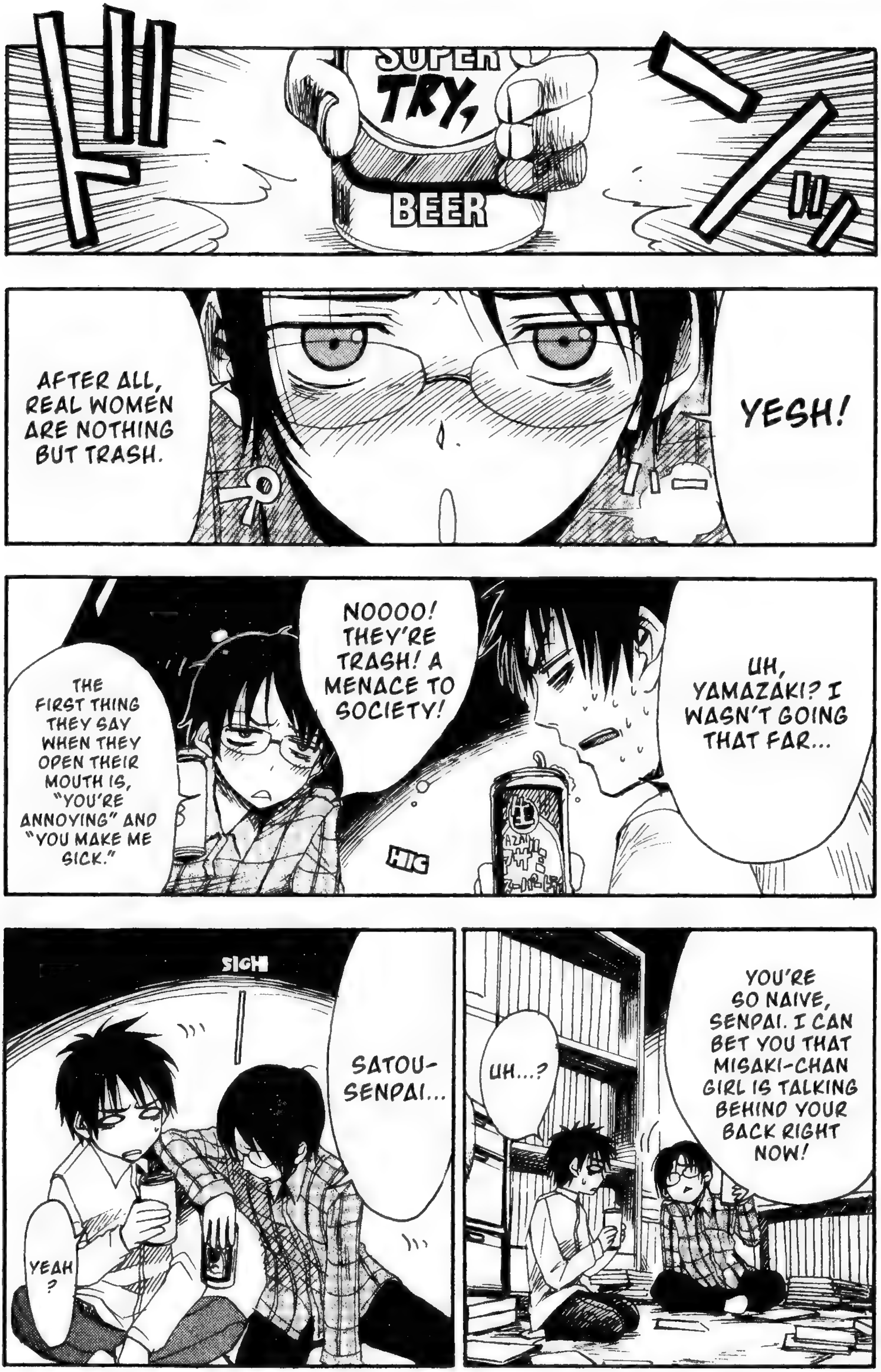

Oh yeah! A girl's heart...
...
Look this way and say you love me...
I love...
!!
SHUT UP IN THERE!
QUIT PLAYING ANIME THEME SONGS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GODDAMN NIGHT!

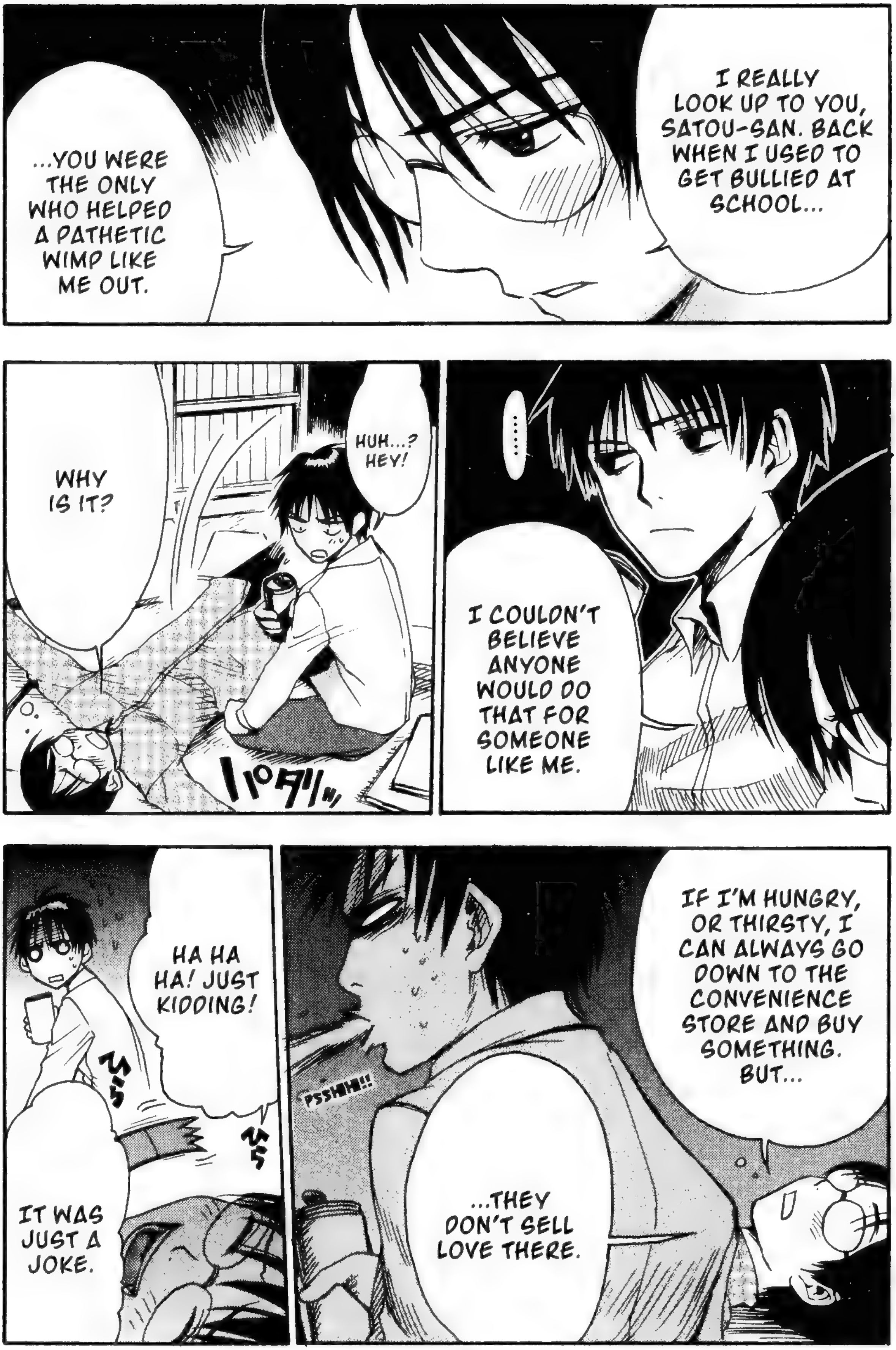
*See Glossary, p. 180.

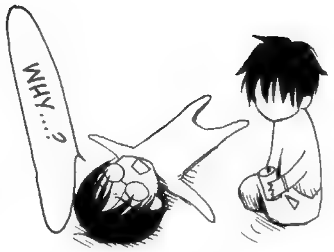


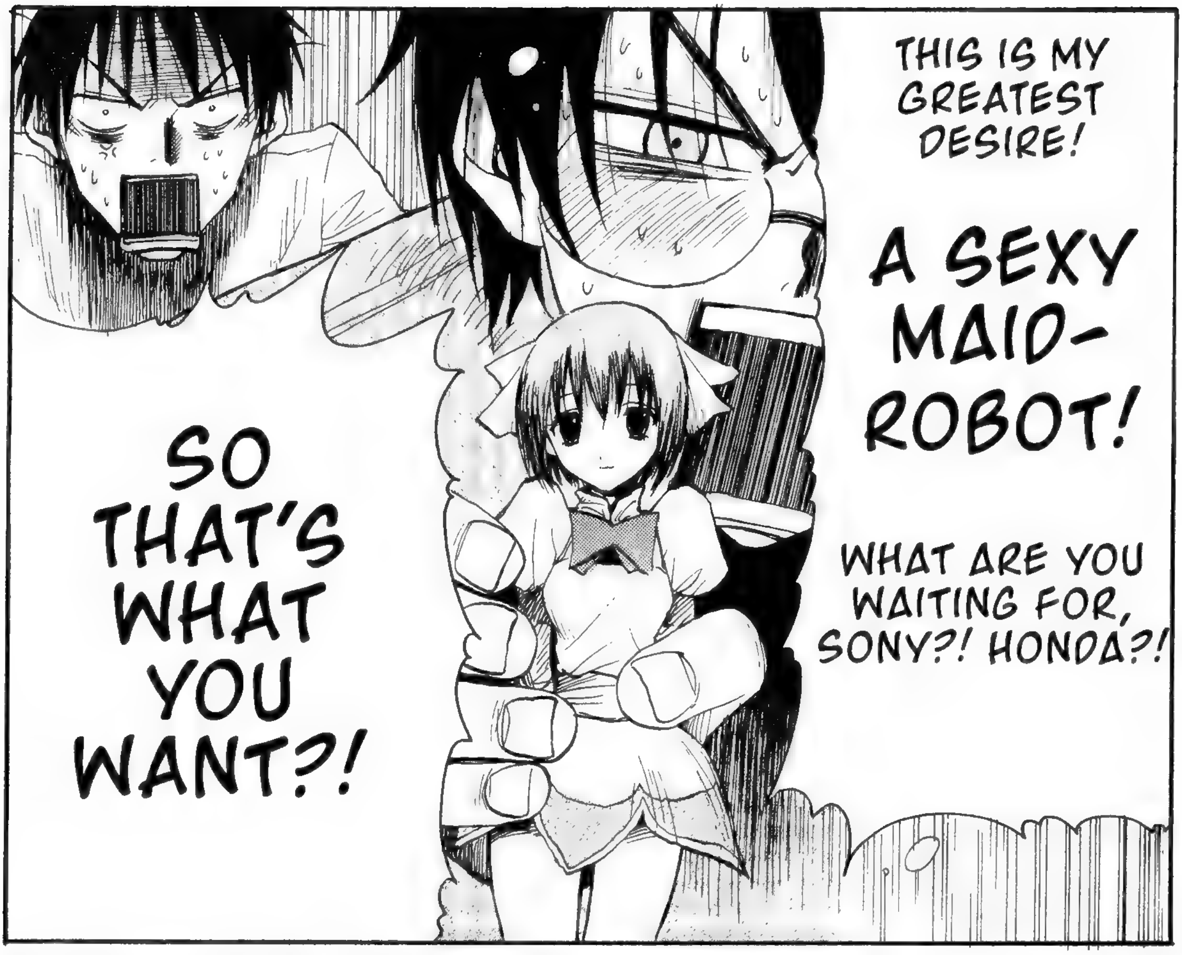

……
...HUH?
18
Girls
Punipani
Girls
Girls
SATOU-SAN?
ムクリ
WHAT?!
SATOU-SENPAI, IT'S YOU, RIGHT?

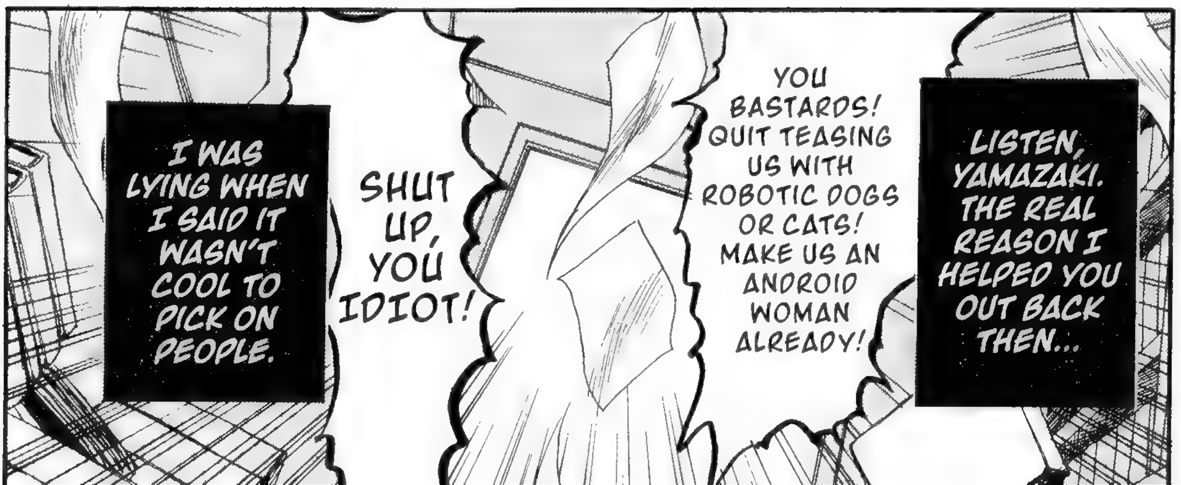

IS IT REALLY YOU?
ぐすん
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
YAMAZAKI?!
SO THE PERSON WHO MOVED IN NEXT DOOR...
WAS YOU?
IT WAS A REUNION WITH AN UNDERCLASSMAN FROM HIGH SCHOOL, WHO I HADN'T SEEN FOR FOUR YEARS...

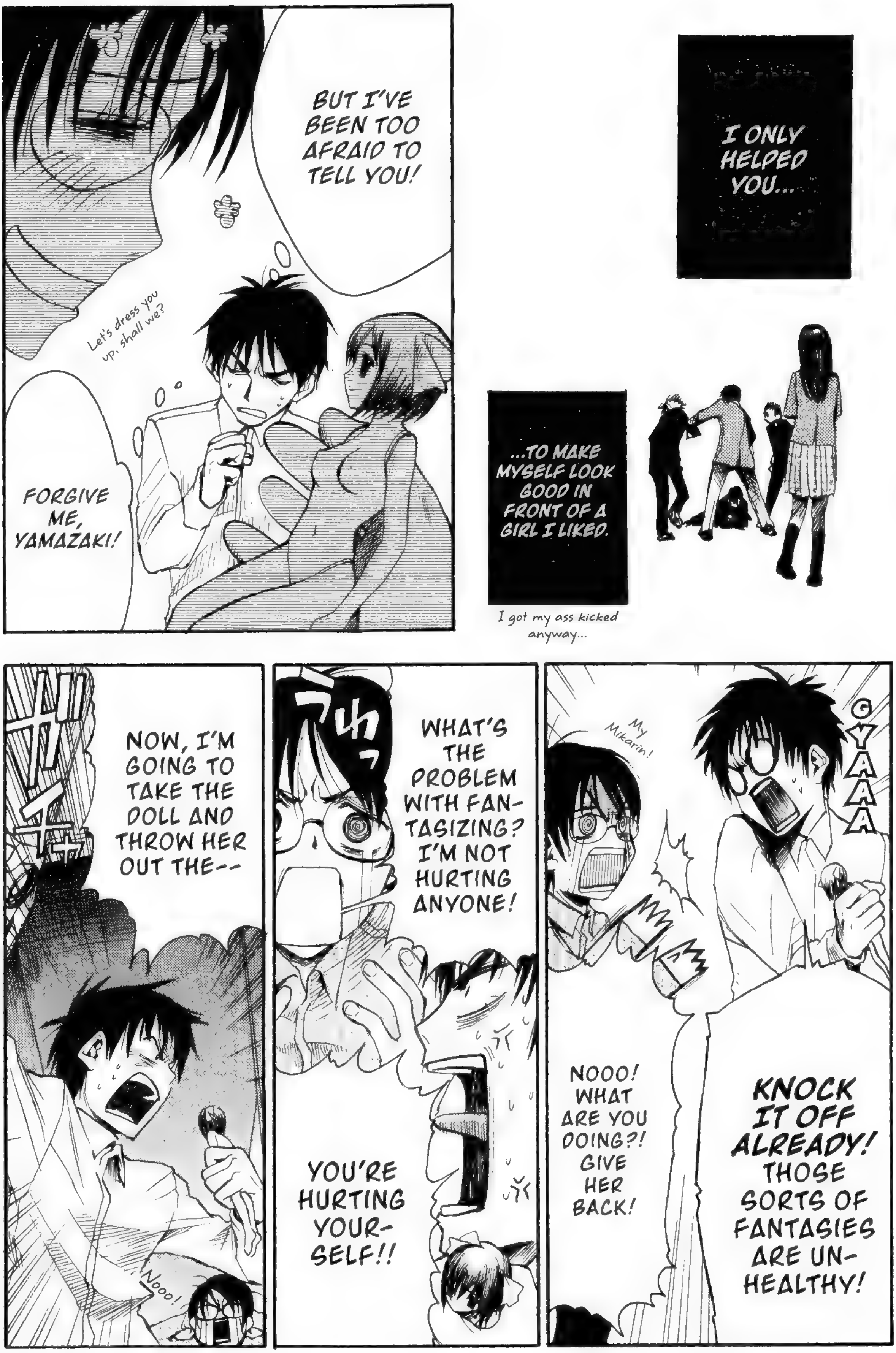

SUPER
TRY
BEER
YESH!
AFTER ALL, REAL WOMEN ARE NOTHING BUT TRASH.
UH, YAMAZAKI? I WASN'T GOING THAT FAR...
NOOOO! THEY'RE TRASH! A MENACE TO SOCIETY!
THE FIRST THING THEY SAY WHEN THEY OPEN THEIR MOUTH IS, "YOU'RE ANNOYING" AND "YOU MAKE ME SICK."
HIC
YOU'RE SO NAIVE, SENPAI. I CAN BET YOU THAT MISAKI-CHAN GIRL IS TALKING BEHIND YOUR BACK RIGHT NOW!
UH...?
SIGH
SATOU-SENPAI...
YEAH?

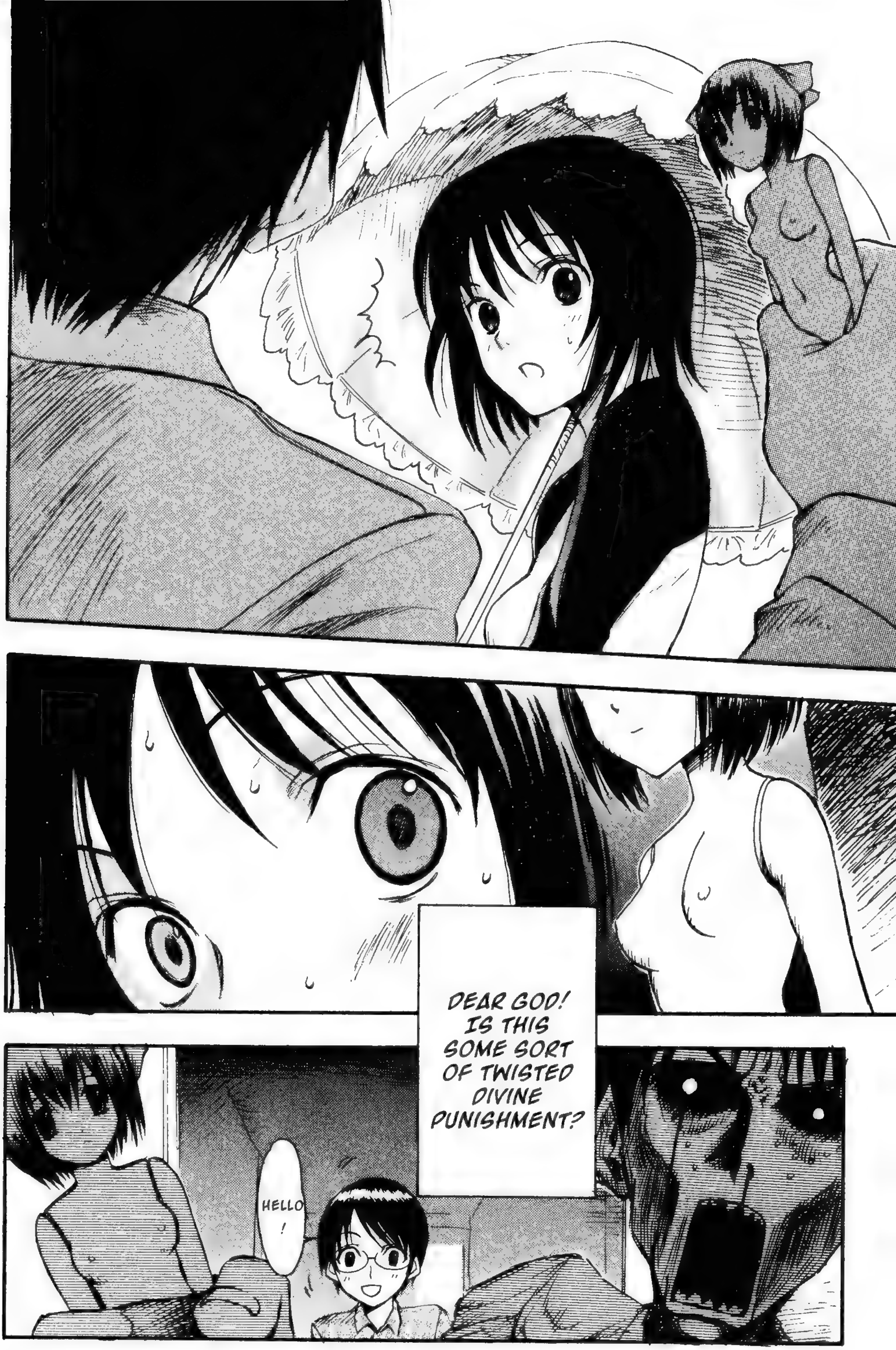

I REALLY LOOK UP TO YOU, SATOU-SAN. BACK WHEN I USED TO GET BULLIED AT SCHOOL...
...YOU WERE THE ONLY WHO HELPED A PATHETIC WIMP LIKE ME OUT.
......
I COULDN'T BELIEVE ANYONE WOULD DO THAT FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME.
HUH...? HEY!
WHY IS IT?
パタリ
IF I'M HUNGRY, OR THIRSTY, I CAN ALWAYS GO DOWN TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE AND BUY SOMETHING. BUT...
PSSHHH!!
...THEY DON'T SELL LOVE THERE.
HA HA HA! JUST KIDDING!
ぶら
ぶら
IT WAS JUST A JOKE.

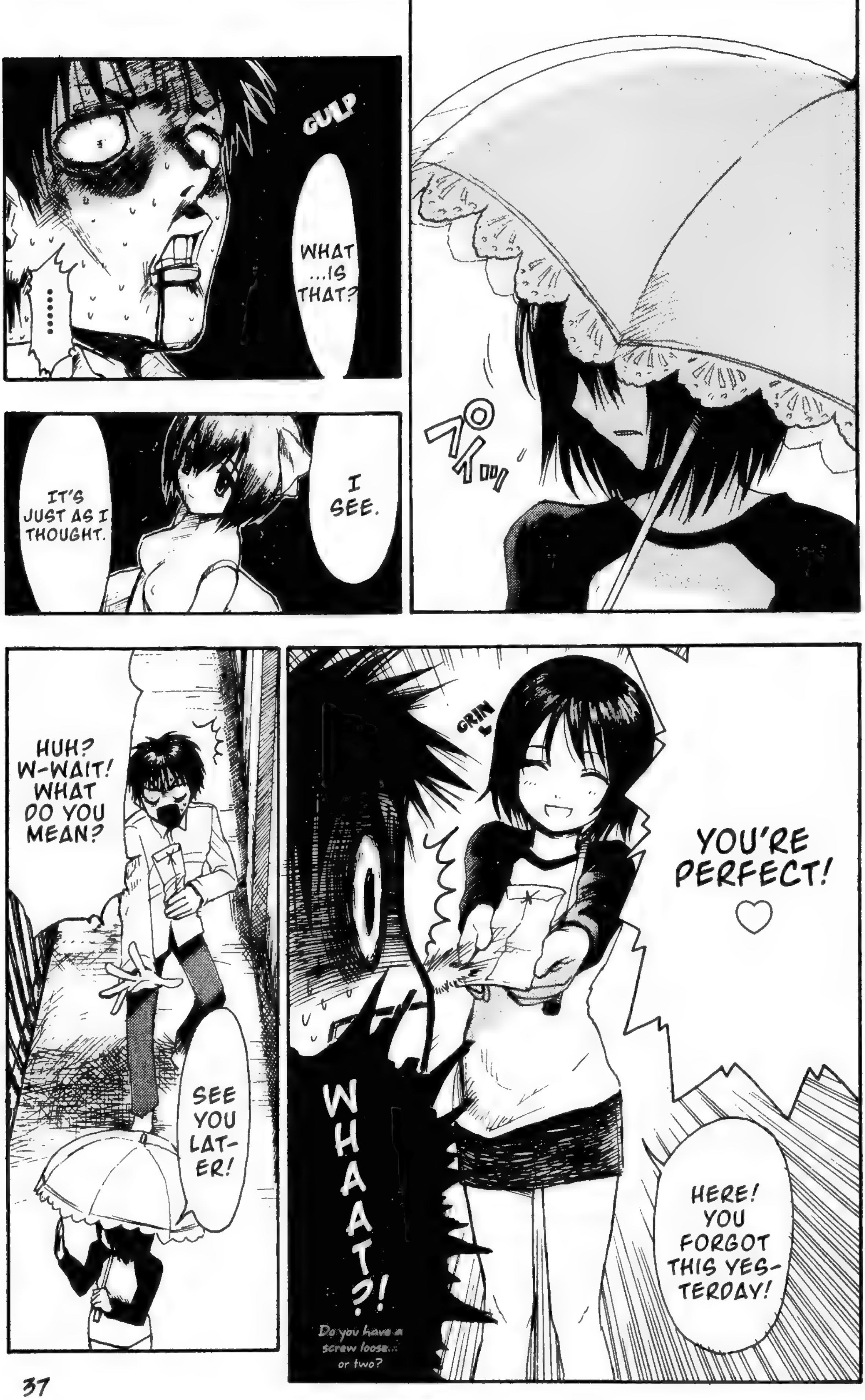

WHY...?

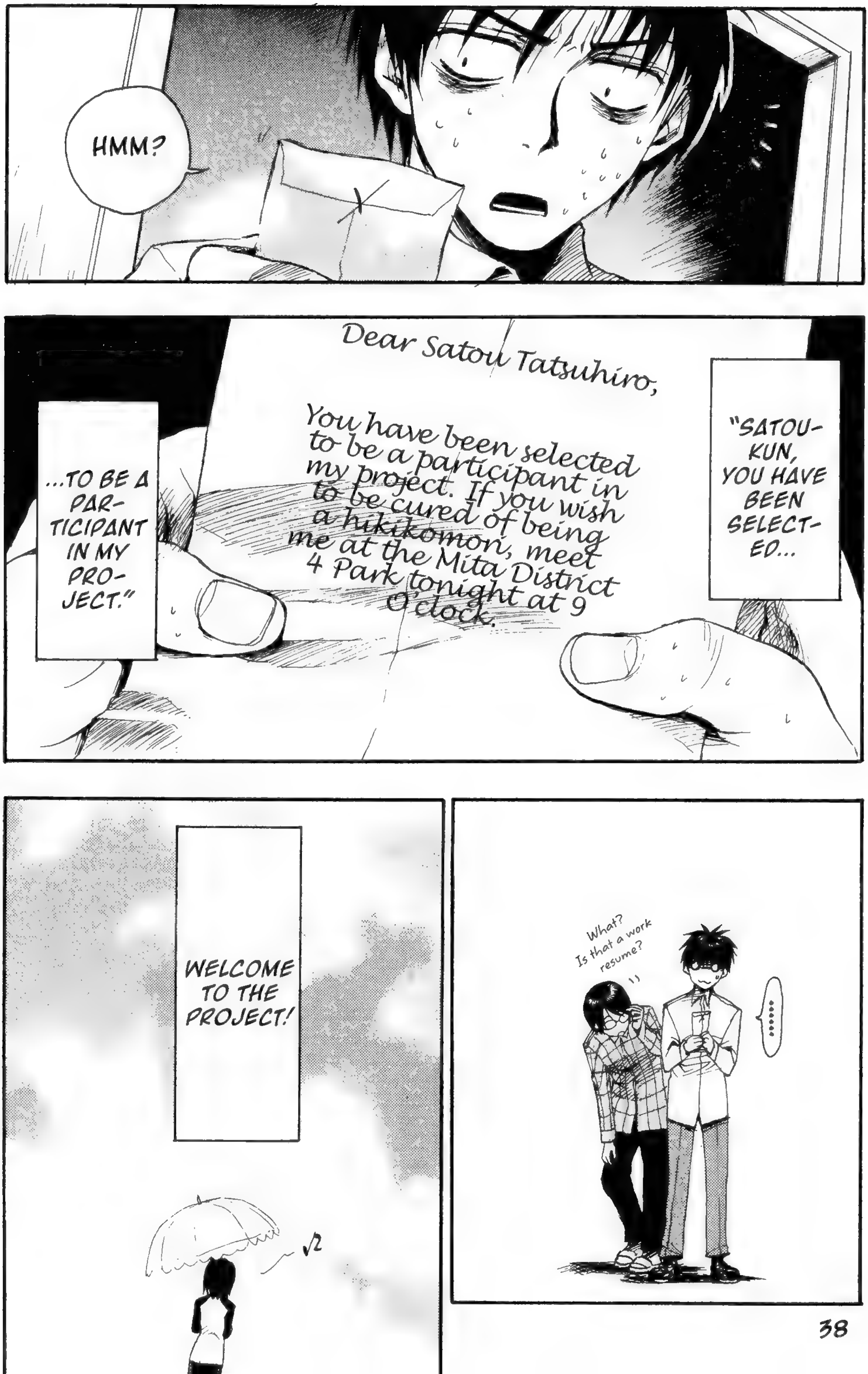

THIS IS MY GREATEST DESIRE!
A SEXY MAID-ROBOT!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, SONY?! HONDA?!
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT?!


LISTEN, YAMAZAKI. THE REAL REASON I HELPED YOU OUT BACK THEN...
YOU BASTARDS! QUIT TEASING US WITH ROBOTIC DOGS OR CATS! MAKE US AN ANDROID WOMAN ALREADY!
SHUT UP, YOU IDIOT!
I WAS LYING WHEN I SAID IT WASN'T COOL TO PICK ON PEOPLE.


I ONLY HELPED YOU...
...TO MAKE MYSELF LOOK GOOD IN FRONT OF A GIRL I LIKED.
I got my ass kicked anyway...
BUT I'VE BEEN TOO AFRAID TO TELL YOU!
Let's dress you up, shall we?
FORGIVE ME, YAMAZAKI!
GYAAAA
My Mikarin!
KNOCK IT OFF ALREADY! THOSE SORTS OF FANTASIES ARE UNHEALTHY!
NOOO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! GIVE HER BACK!
うぬっ
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH FANTASIZING? I'M NOT HURTING ANYONE!
YOU'RE HURTING YOURSELF!!
NOW, I'M GOING TO TAKE THE DOLL AND THROW HER OUT THE--
Nooo!


DEAR GOD! IS THIS SOME SORT OF TWISTED DIVINE PUNISHMENT?
HELLO!


ペこっ
GULP
WHAT ...IS THAT?
......
I SEE.
IT'S JUST AS I THOUGHT.
GRIN
YOU'RE PERFECT! ♡
HERE! YOU FORGOT THIS YESTERDAY!
WHAAT?!
Do you have a screw loose... or two?
HUH? W-WAIT! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SEE YOU LATER!

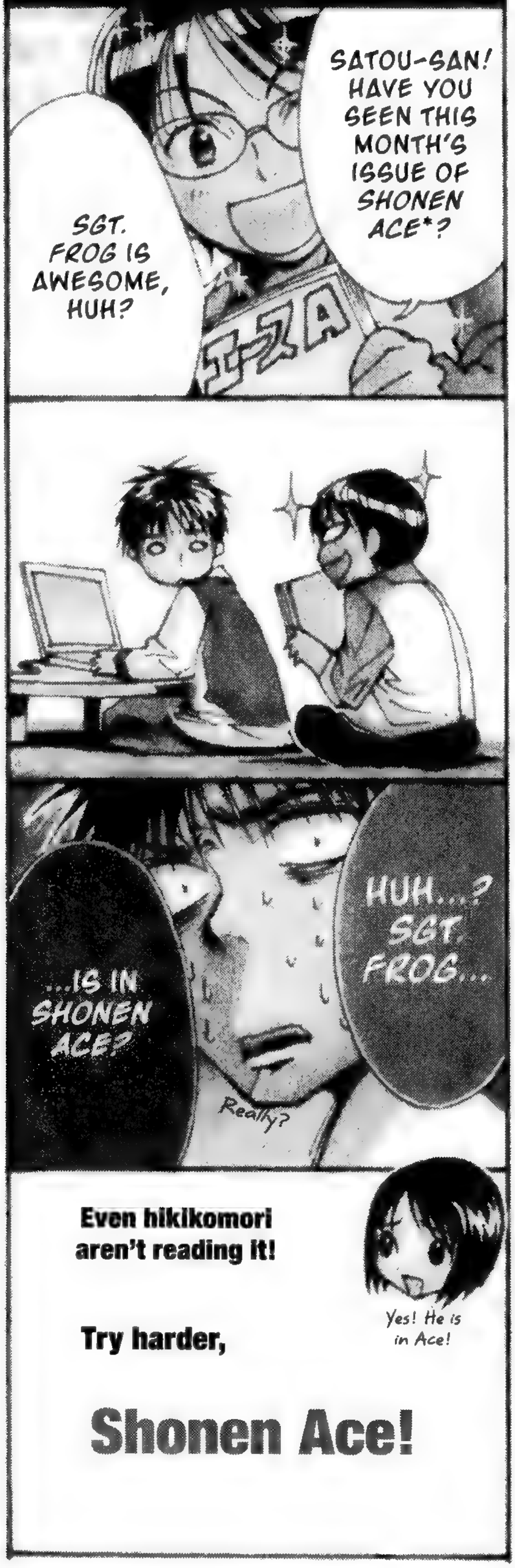

HMM?
"SATOU-KUN, YOU HAVE BEEN SELECTED...
Dear Satou Tatsuhiro,
You have been selected to be a participant in my project. If you wish to be cured of being a hikikomori, meet me at the Mita District 4 Park tonight at 9 O'clock.
...TO BE A PARTICIPANT IN MY PROJECT."
What? Is that a work resume?
......
WELCOME TO THE PROJECT!

Welcome to the N.H.K.

#01 Welcome to the PROJECT!

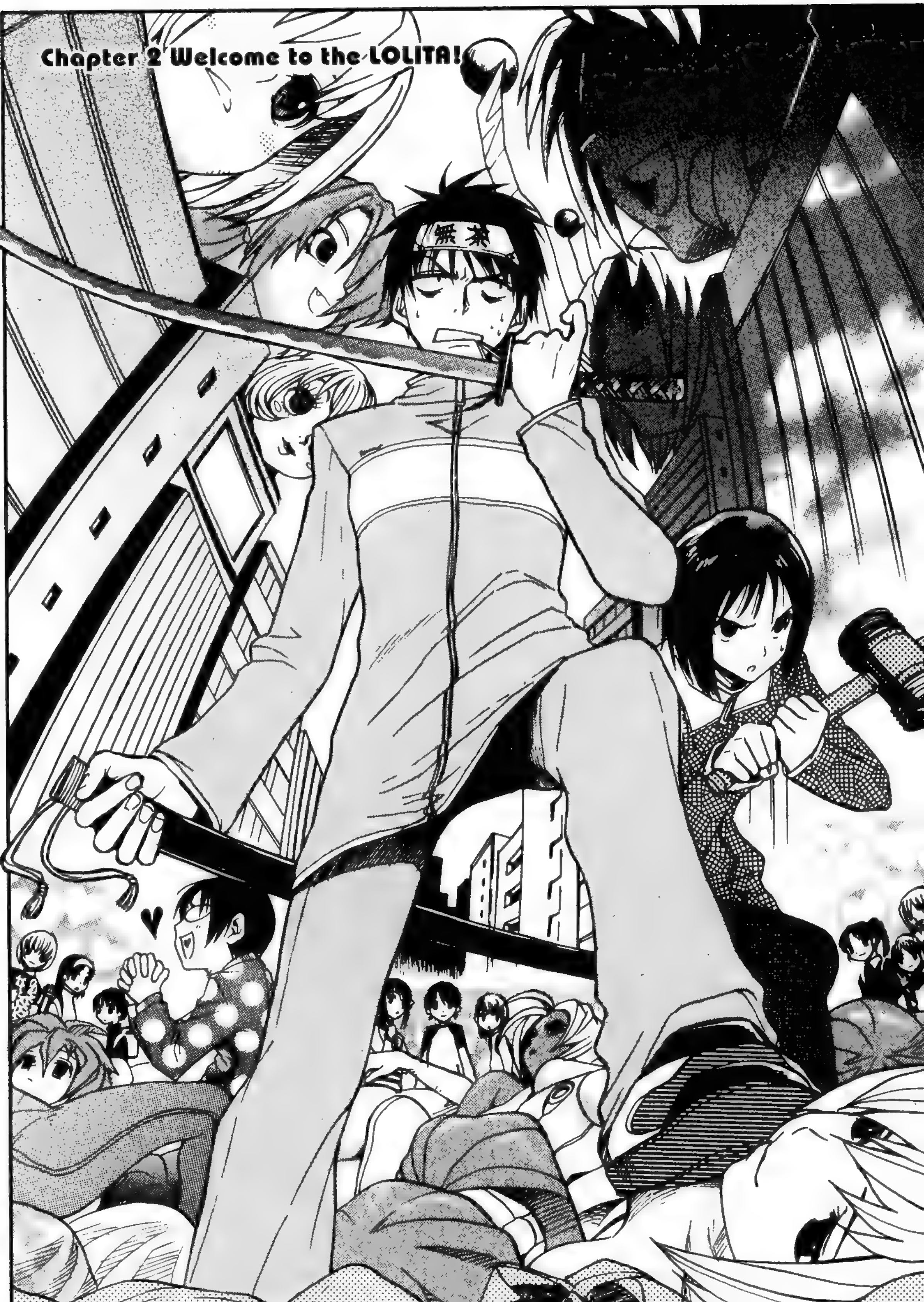
Continued in Episode #02...

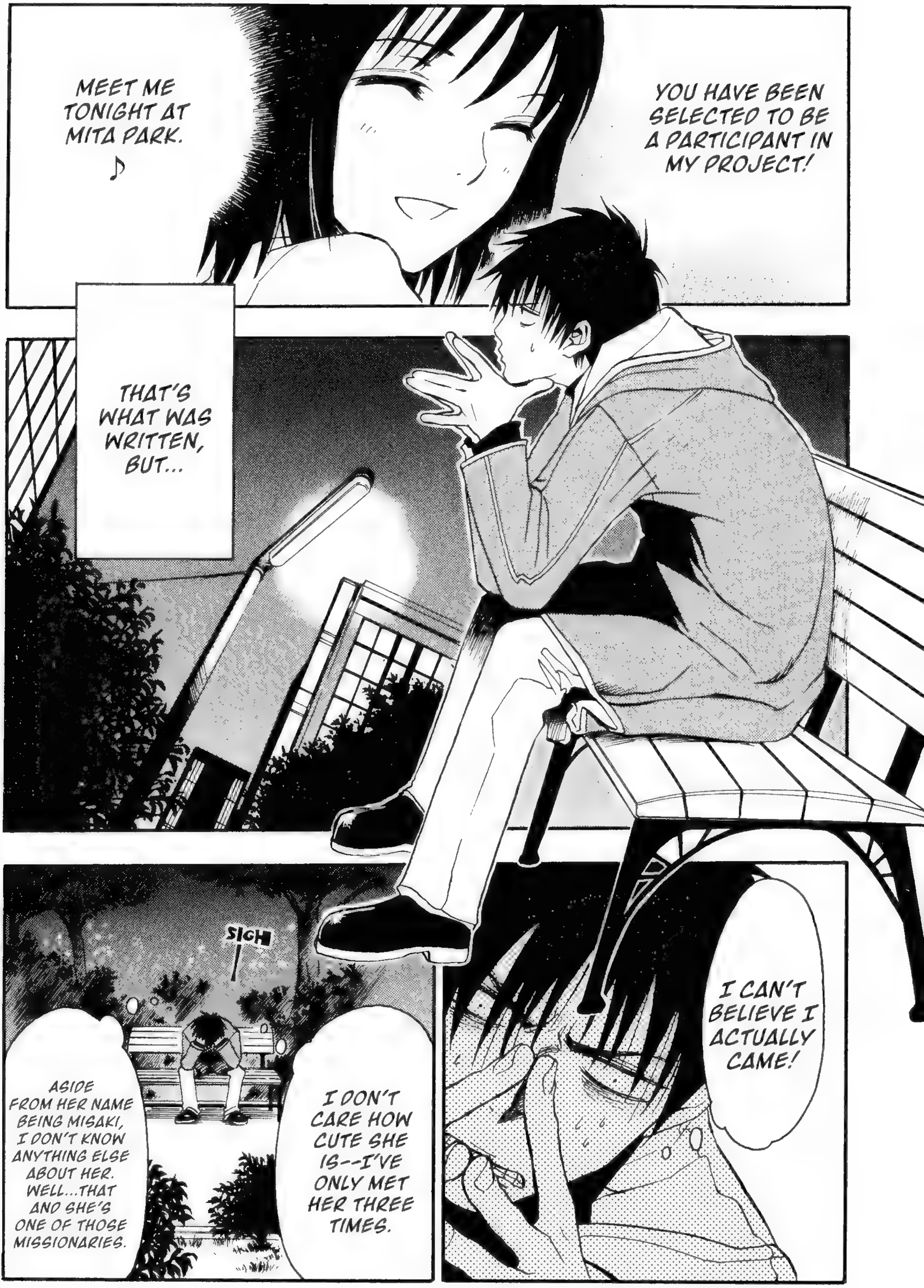
Welcome to the N.H.K.!
4-Panel Comic – #1

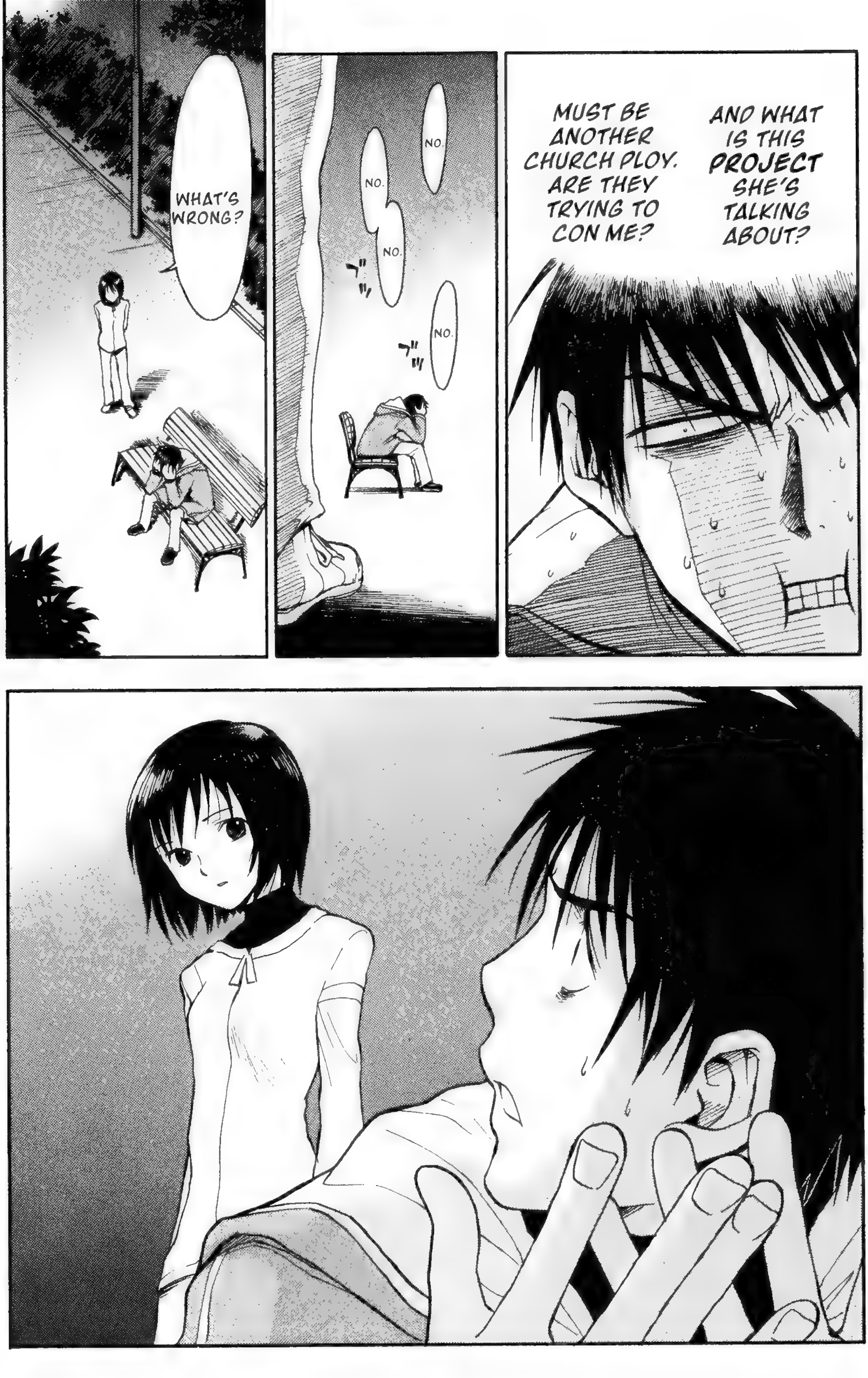

SATOU-SAN! HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE OF SHONEN ACE*?
SGT. FROG IS AWESOME, HUH?
エースA
HUH...? SGT. FROG...
...IS IN SHONEN ACE?
Really?
Yes! He is in Ace!
Even hikikomori aren't reading it!
Try harder,
Shonen Ace!

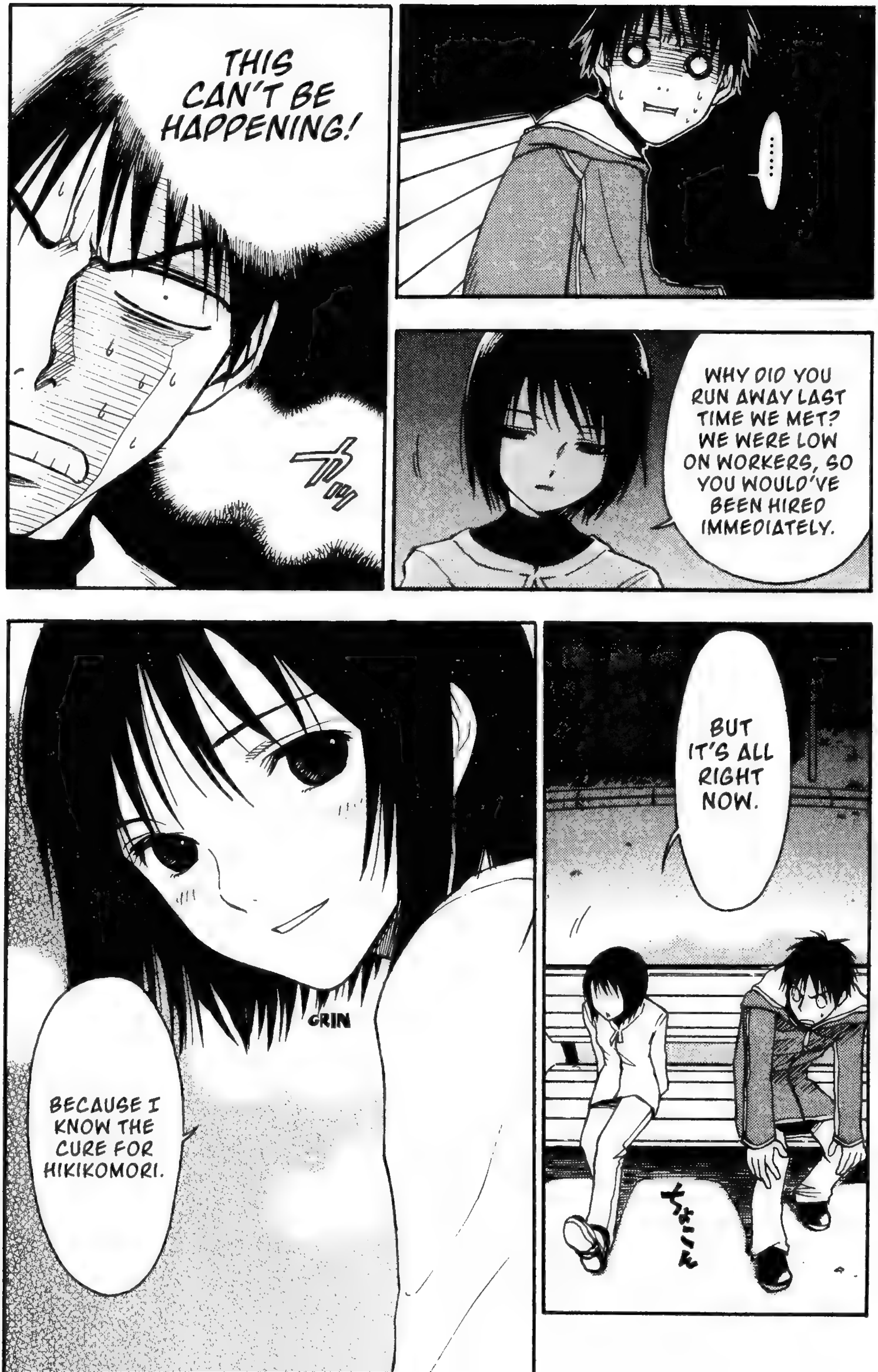
*See Glossary, p. 180.

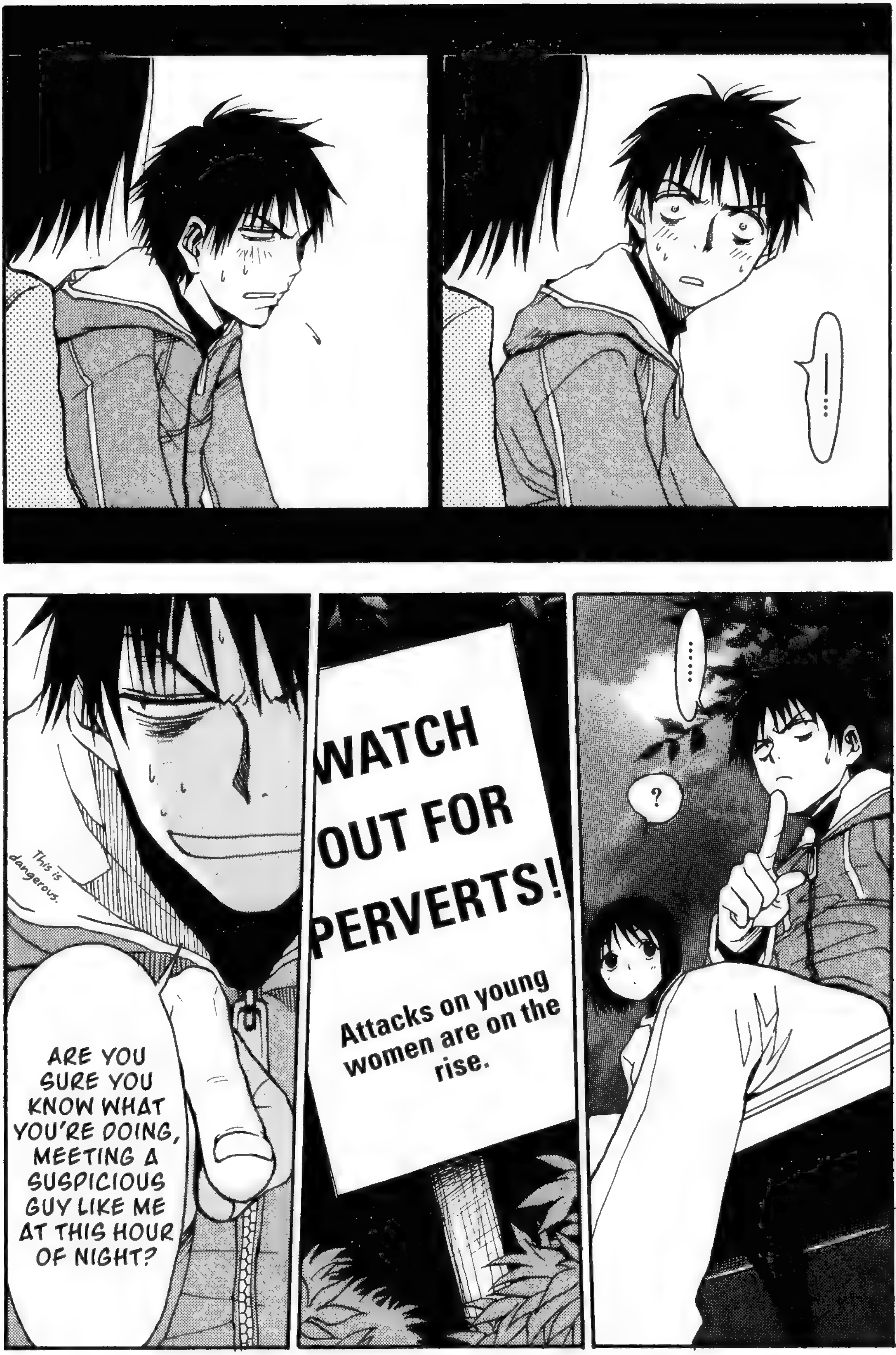
Chapter 2 Welcome to the LOLITA!

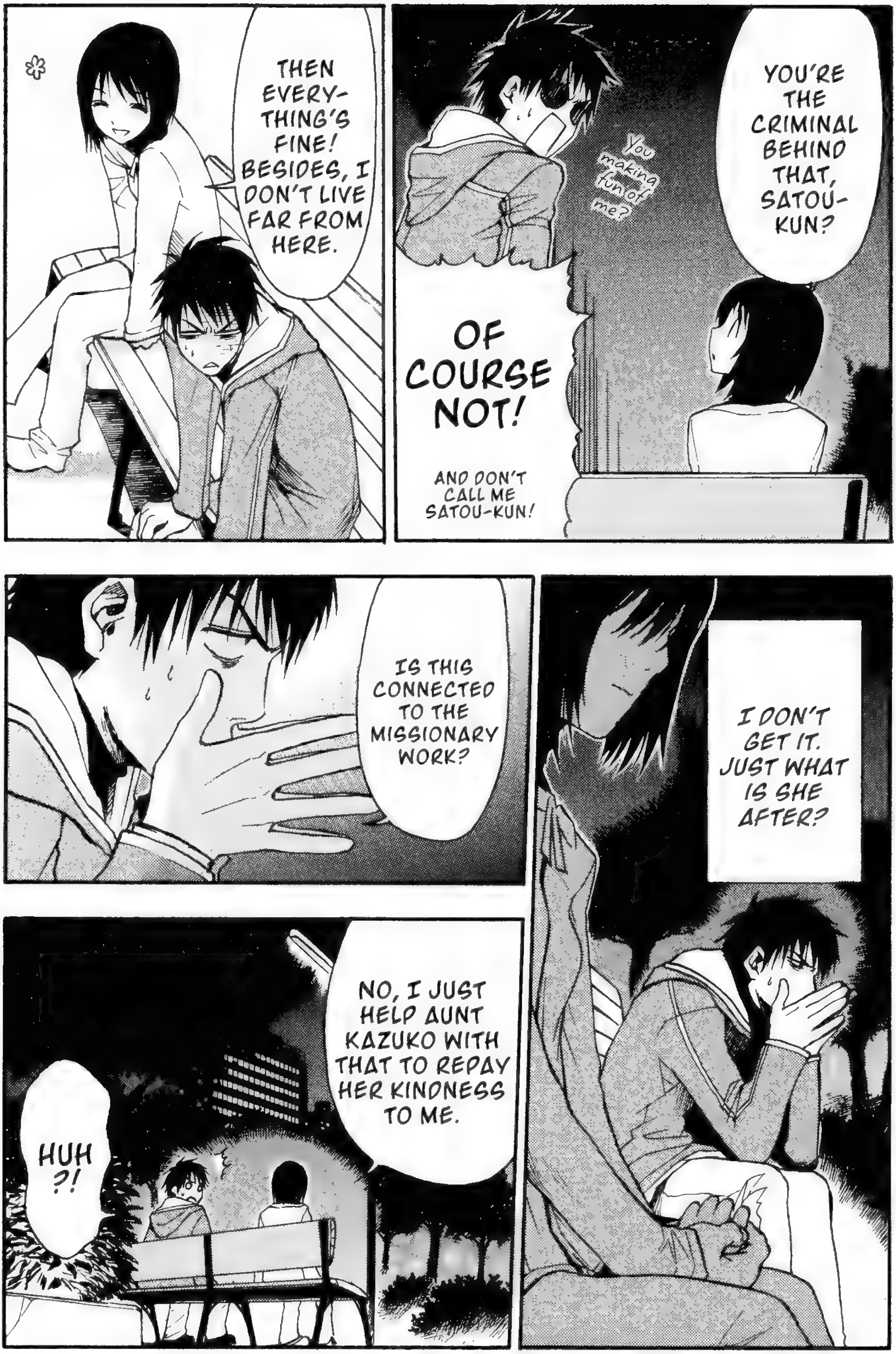


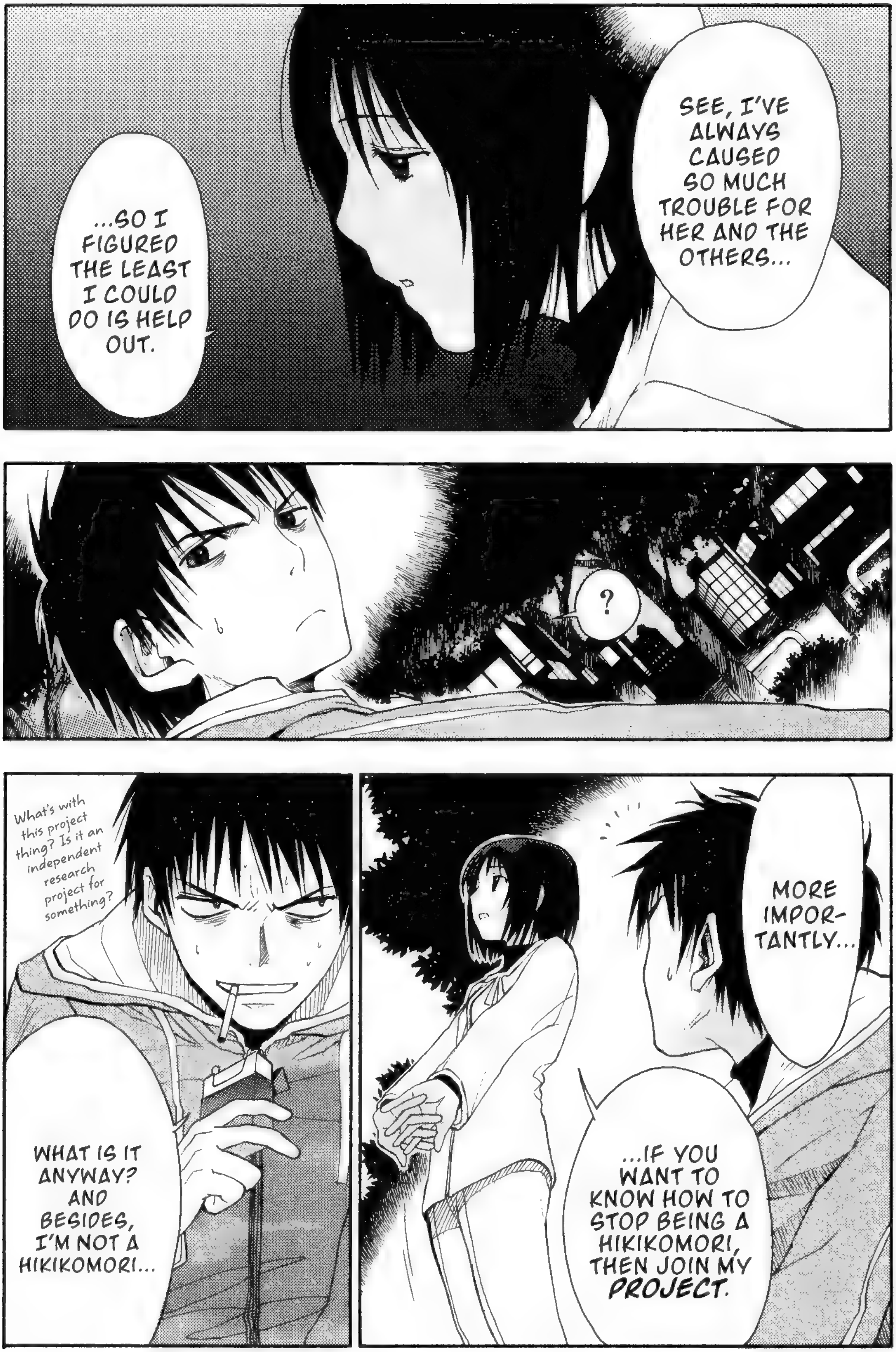

YOU HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO BE A PARTICIPANT IN MY PROJECT!
MEET ME TONIGHT AT MITA PARK. ♪
THAT'S WHAT WAS WRITTEN, BUT...
I CAN'T BELIEVE I ACTUALLY CAME!
SIGH
I DON'T CARE HOW CUTE SHE IS--I'VE ONLY MET HER THREE TIMES.
ASIDE FROM HER NAME BEING MISAKI, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT HER. WELL...THAT AND SHE'S ONE OF THOSE MISSIONARIES.

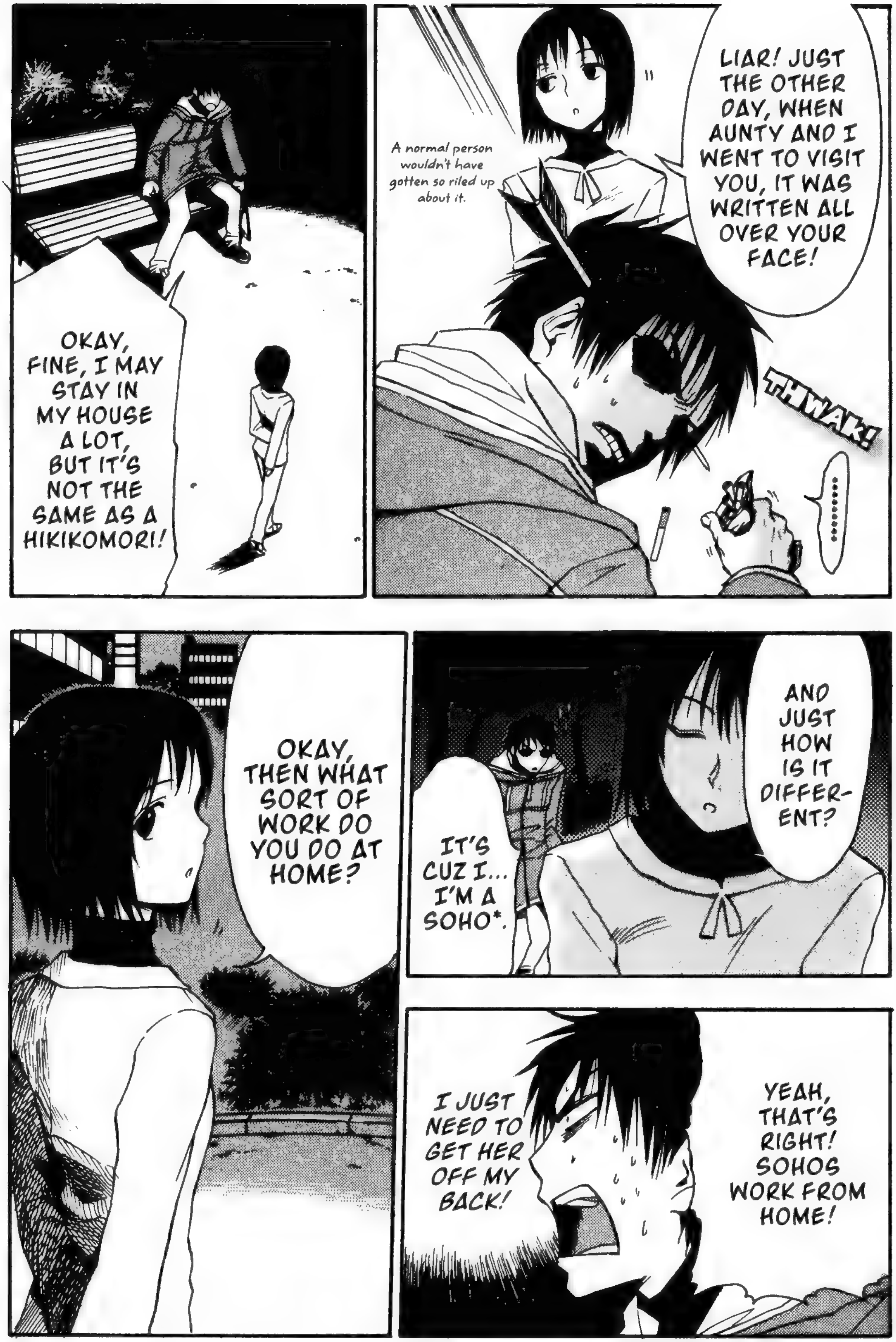

AND WHAT IS THIS PROJECT SHE'S TALKING ABOUT?
MUST BE ANOTHER CHURCH PLOY. ARE THEY TRYING TO CON ME?
NO.
NO.
NO.
NO.
WHAT'S WRONG?


……
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!
WHY DID YOU RUN AWAY LAST TIME WE MET? WE WERE LOW ON WORKERS, SO YOU WOULD'VE BEEN HIRED IMMEDIATELY.
BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW.
ちょこん
BECAUSE I KNOW THE CURE FOR HIKIKOMORI.
GRIN

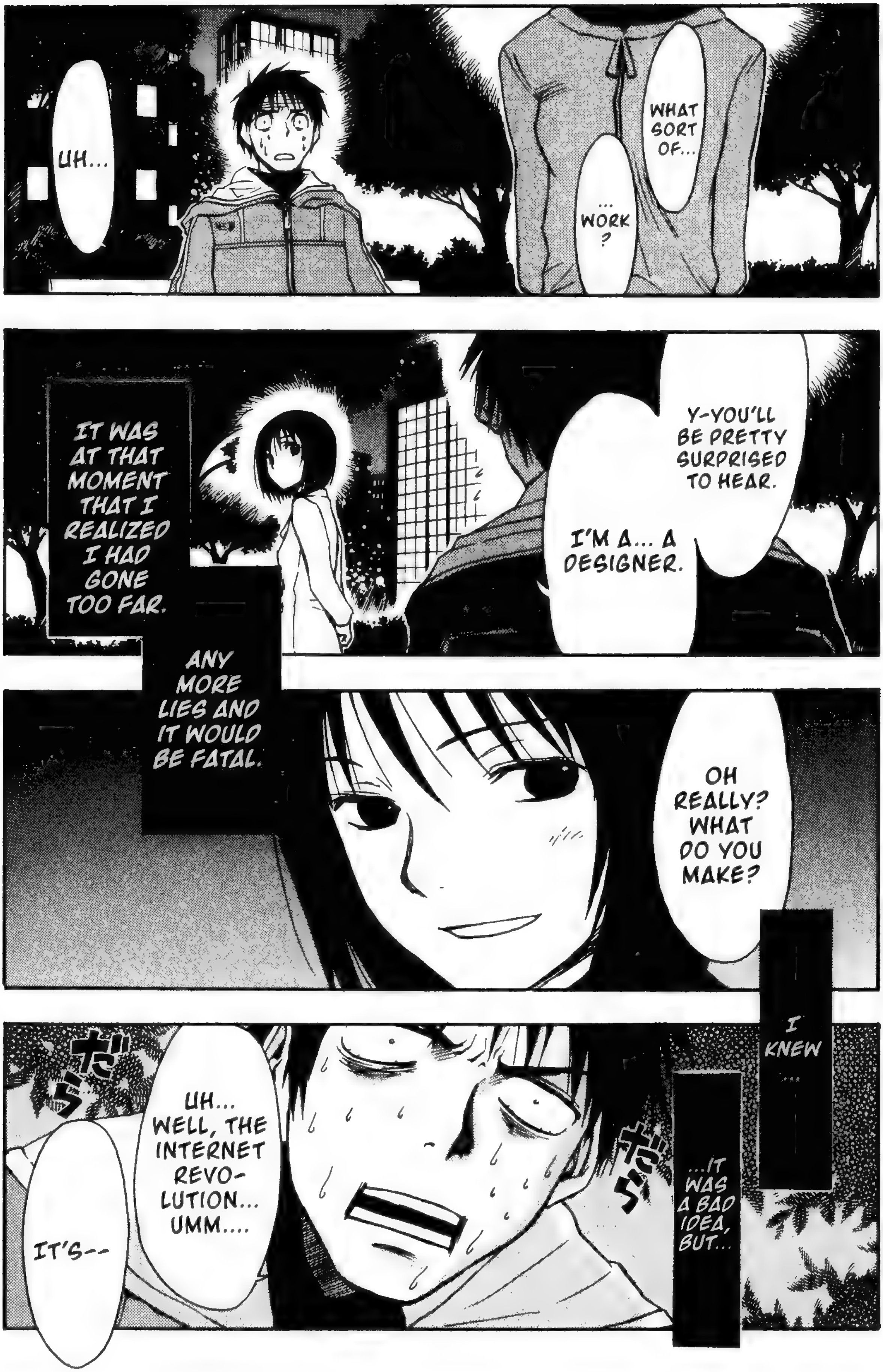

!……
……
?
WATCH OUT FOR PERVERTS!
Attacks on young women are on the rise.
This is dangerous.
ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, MEETING A SUSPICIOUS GUY LIKE ME AT THIS HOUR OF NIGHT?

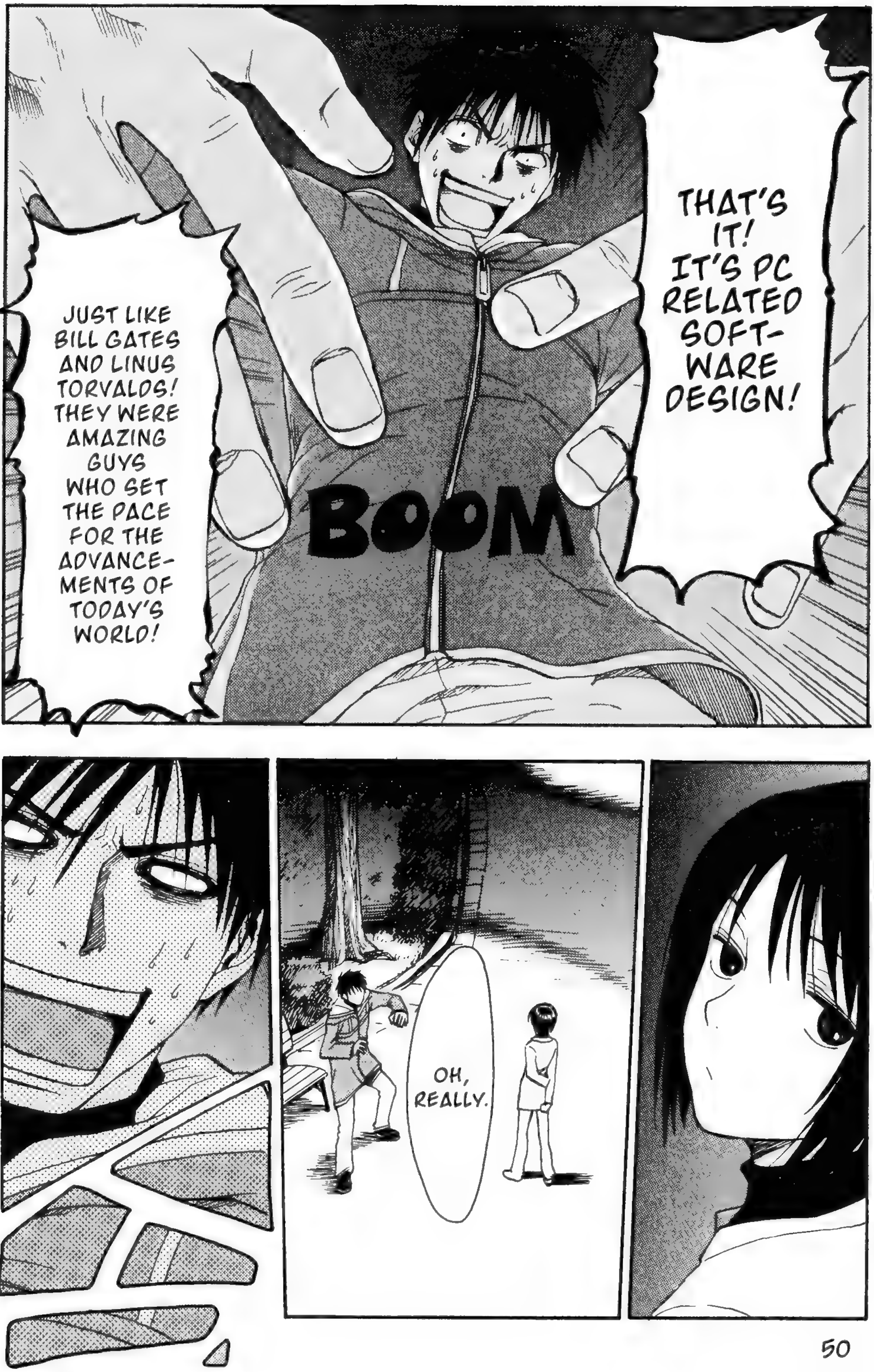

YOU'RE THE CRIMINAL BEHIND THAT, SATOU-KUN?
You making fun of me?
OF COURSE NOT!
AND DON'T CALL ME SATOU-KUN!
THEN EVERYTHING'S FINE! BESIDES, I DON'T LIVE FAR FROM HERE.
I DON'T GET IT. JUST WHAT IS SHE AFTER?
IS THIS CONNECTED TO THE MISSIONARY WORK?
NO, I JUST HELP AUNT KAZUKO WITH THAT TO REPAY HER KINDNESS TO ME.
HUH ?!

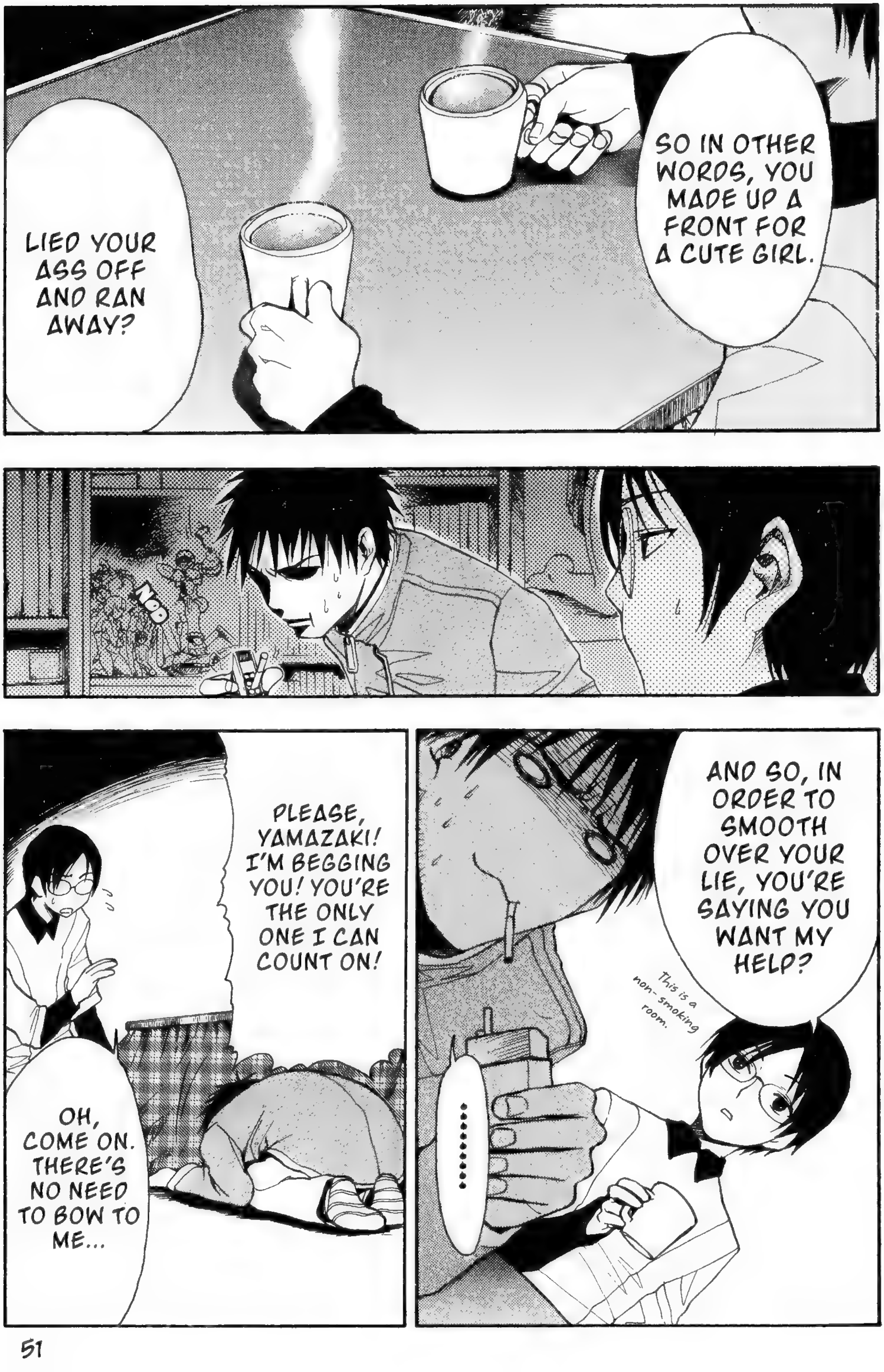

SEE, I'VE ALWAYS CAUSED SO MUCH TROUBLE FOR HER AND THE OTHERS...
...SO I FIGURED THE LEAST I COULD DO IS HELP OUT.
?
MORE IMPORTANTLY...
...IF YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW TO STOP BEING A HIKIKOMORI, THEN JOIN MY *PROJECT*.
What's with this project thing? Is it an independent research project for something?
WHAT IS IT ANYWAY? AND BESIDES, I'M NOT A HIKIKOMORI...

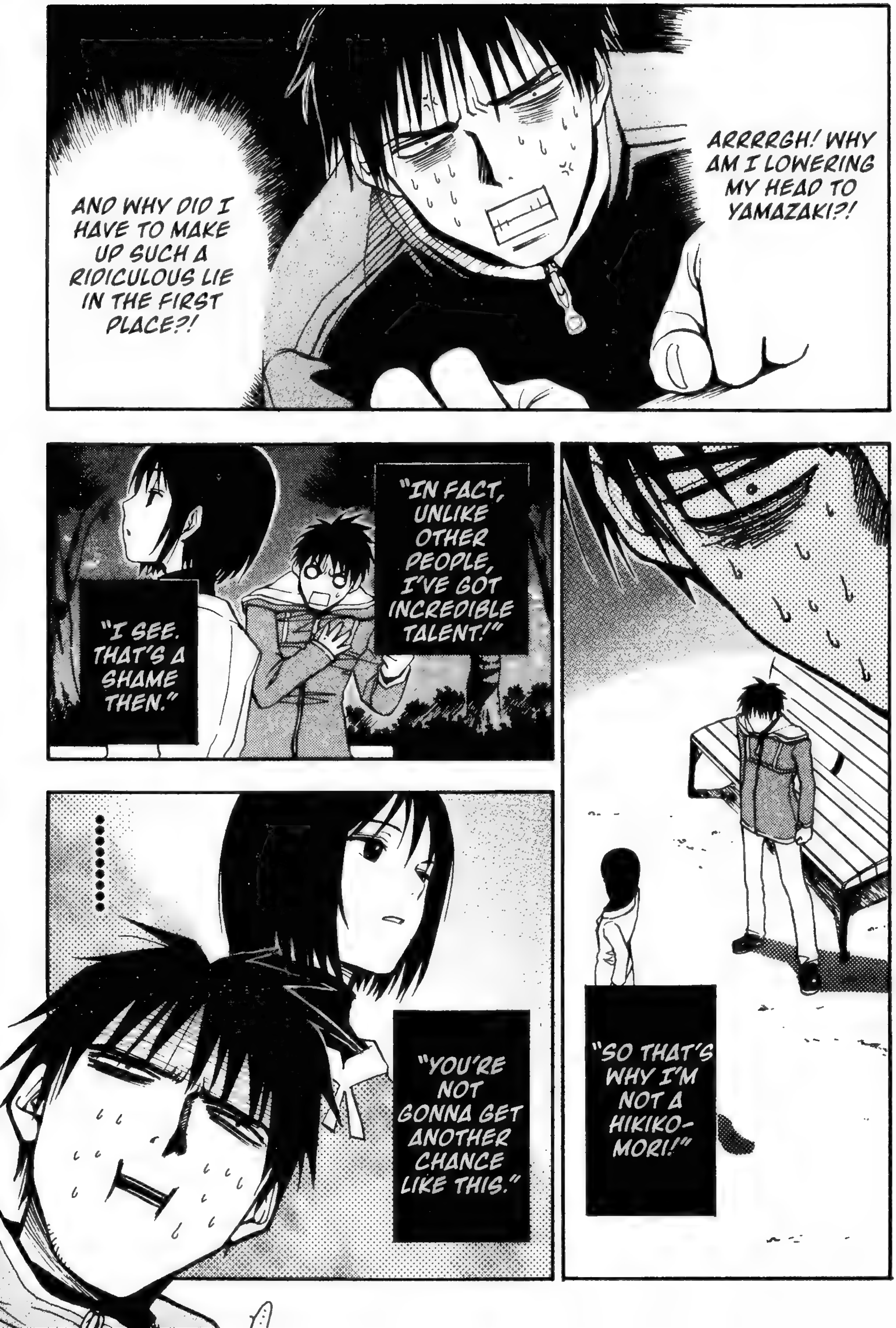

OKAY, FINE, I MAY STAY IN MY HOUSE A LOT, BUT IT'S NOT THE SAME AS A HIKIKOMORI!
LIAR! JUST THE OTHER DAY, WHEN AUNTY AND I WENT TO VISIT YOU, IT WAS WRITTEN ALL OVER YOUR FACE!
A normal person wouldn't have gotten so riled up about it.
THWAK!
....
AND JUST HOW IS IT DIFFERENT?
IT'S CUZ I... I'M A SOHO*.
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT! SOHOS WORK FROM HOME!
I JUST NEED TO GET HER OFF MY BACK!
OKAY, THEN WHAT SORT OF WORK DO YOU DO AT HOME?

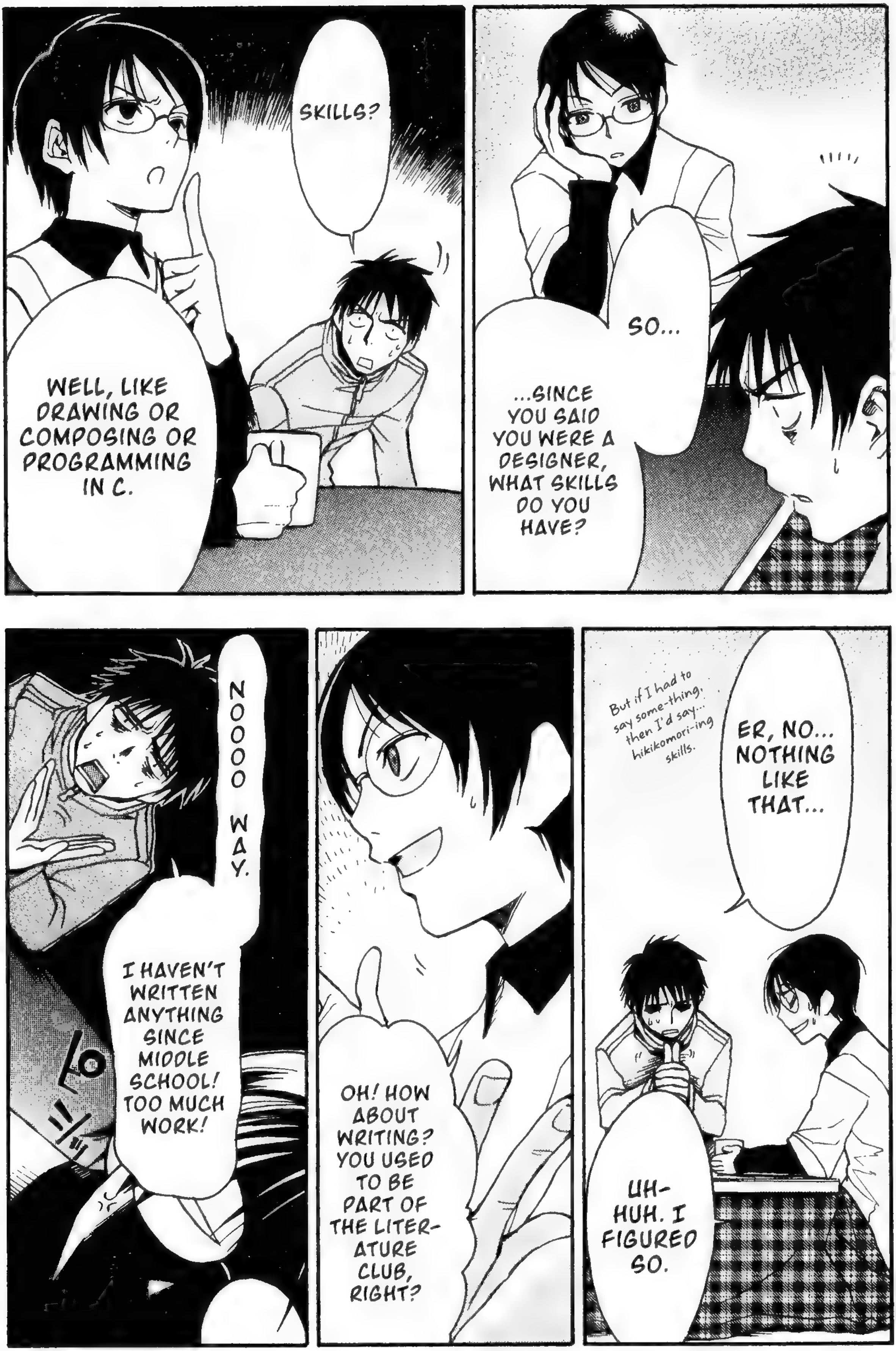
*See Glossary, p. 180.

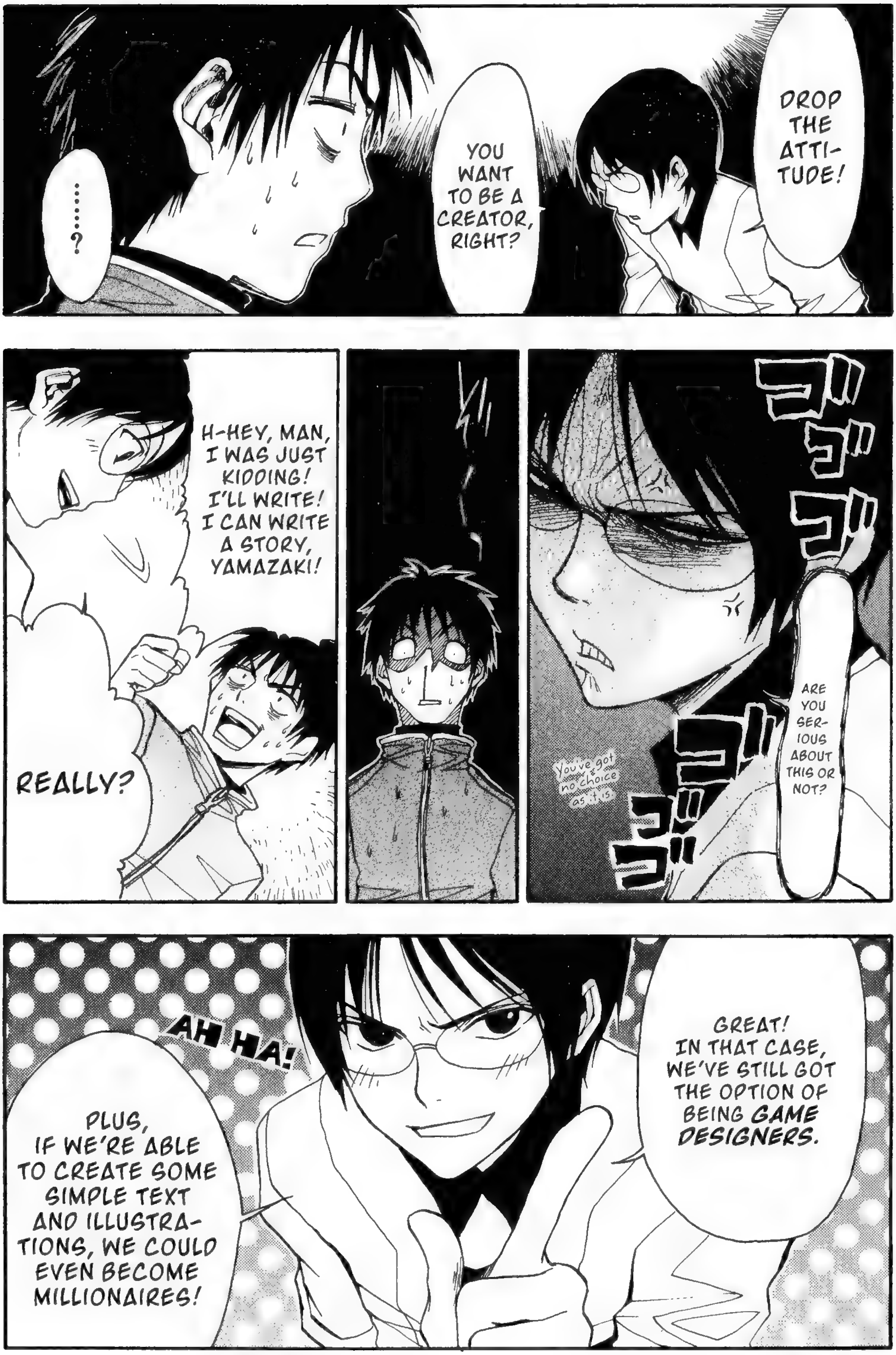

WHAT SORT OF...
...WORK?
UH...
Y-YOU'LL BE PRETTY SURPRISED TO HEAR.
I'M A... A DESIGNER.
IT WAS AT THAT MOMENT THAT I REALIZED I HAD GONE TOO FAR.
ANY MORE LIES AND IT WOULD BE FATAL.
OH REALLY? WHAT DO YOU MAKE?
I KNEW...
...IT WAS A BAD IDEA, BUT...
だら
だら
UH... WELL, THE INTERNET REVOLUTION... UMM....
IT'S--

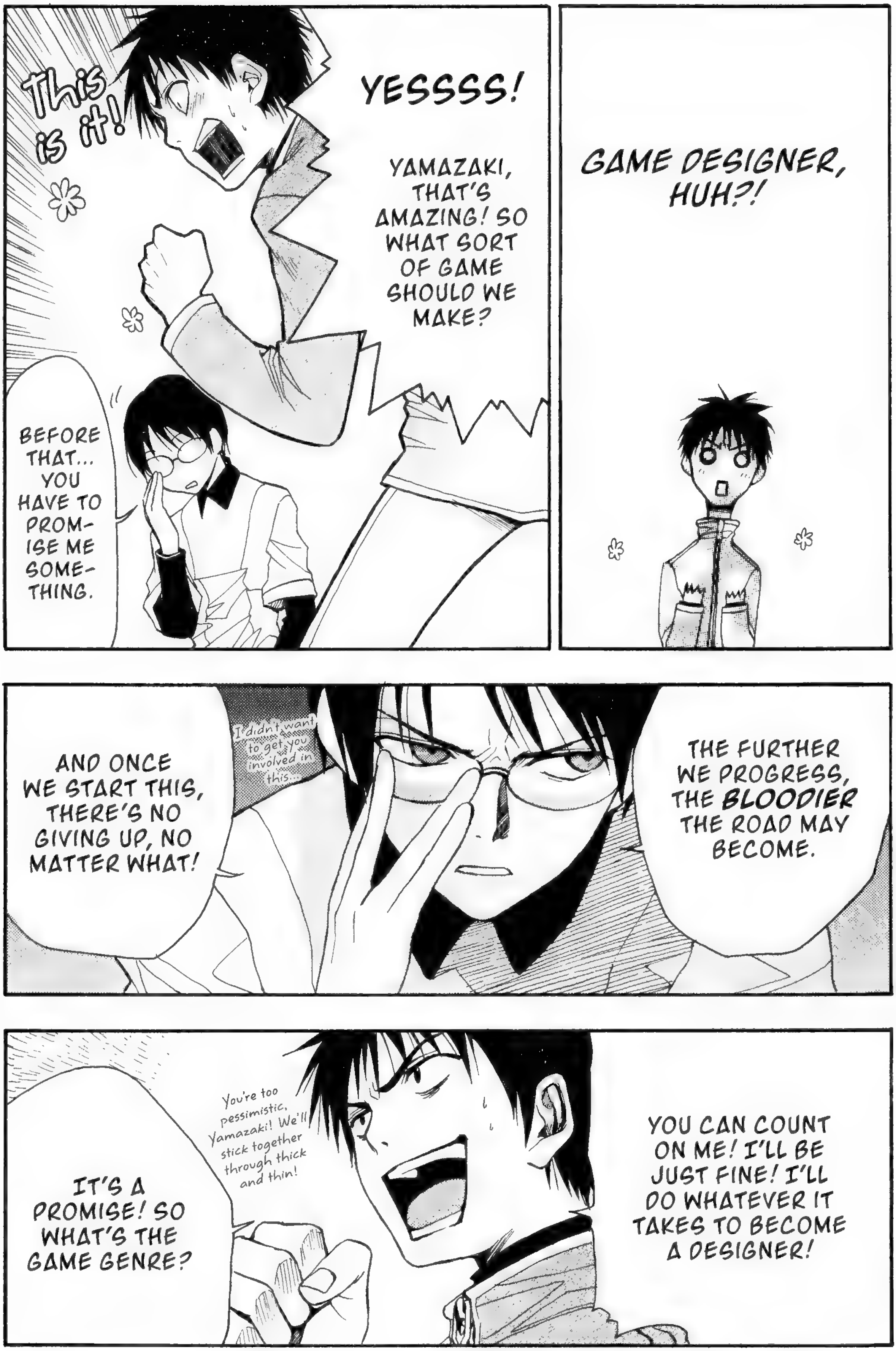

THAT'S IT! IT'S PC RELATED SOFTWARE DESIGN!
JUST LIKE BILL GATES AND LINUS TORVALDS! THEY WERE AMAZING GUYS WHO SET THE PACE FOR THE ADVANCEMENTS OF TODAY'S WORLD!
BOOM
OH, REALLY.

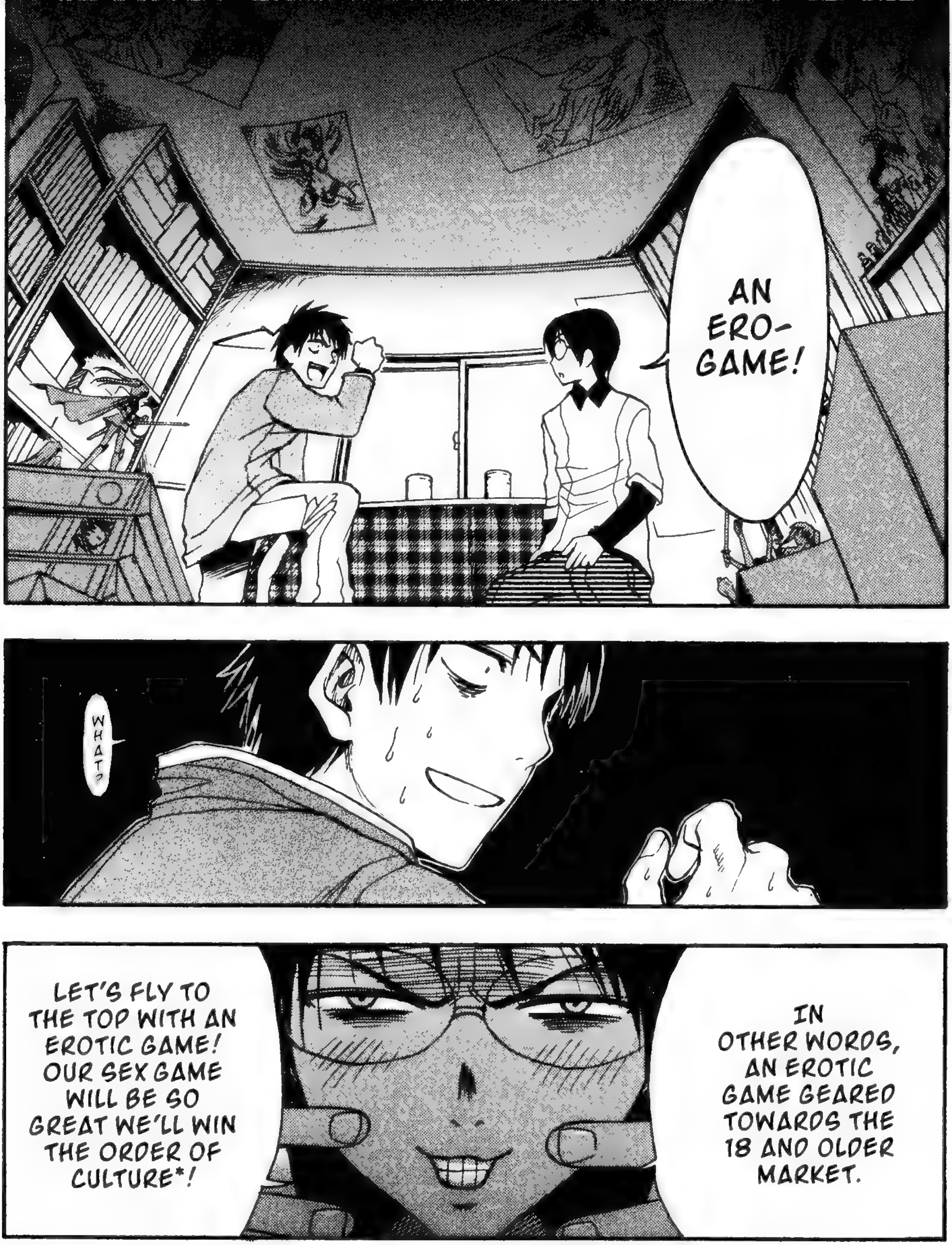

SO IN OTHER WORDS, YOU MADE UP A FRONT FOR A CUTE GIRL.
LIED YOUR ASS OFF AND RAN AWAY?
NOD
AND SO, IN ORDER TO SMOOTH OVER YOUR LIE, YOU'RE SAYING YOU WANT MY HELP?
This is a non-smoking room.
....
PLEASE, YAMAZAKI! I'M BEGGING YOU! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN COUNT ON!
OH, COME ON. THERE'S NO NEED TO BOW TO ME...


ARRRRGH! WHY AM I LOWERING MY HEAD TO YAMAZAKI?!
AND WHY DID I HAVE TO MAKE UP SUCH A RIDICULOUS LIE IN THE FIRST PLACE?!
"SO THAT'S WHY I'M NOT A HIKIKOMORI!"
"IN FACT, UNLIKE OTHER PEOPLE, I'VE GOT INCREDIBLE TALENT!"
"I SEE. THAT'S A SHAME THEN."
......
"YOU'RE NOT GONNA GET ANOTHER CHANCE LIKE THIS."

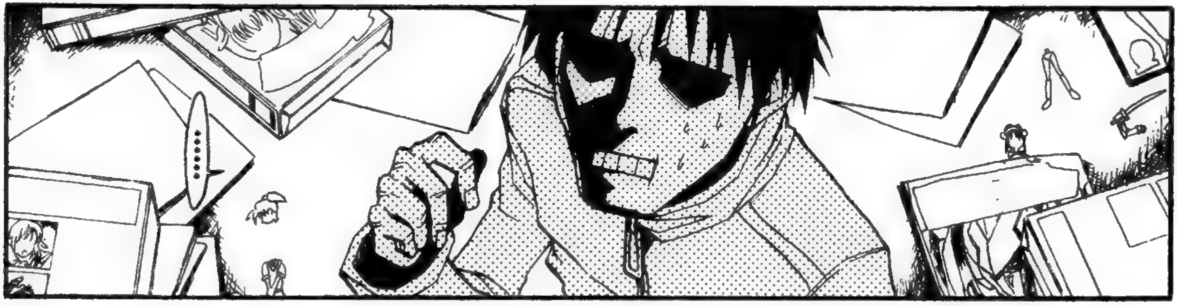

SO...
...SINCE YOU SAID YOU WERE A DESIGNER, WHAT SKILLS DO YOU HAVE?
SKILLS?
WELL, LIKE DRAWING OR COMPOSING OR PROGRAMMING IN C.
ER, NO... NOTHING LIKE THAT...
But if I had to say some-thing, then I'd say... hikikomori-ing skills.
UH-HUH. I FIGURED SO.
OH! HOW ABOUT WRITING? YOU USED TO BE PART OF THE LITERATURE CLUB, RIGHT?
NOOOO WAY.
I HAVEN'T WRITTEN ANYTHING SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL! TOO MUCH WORK!

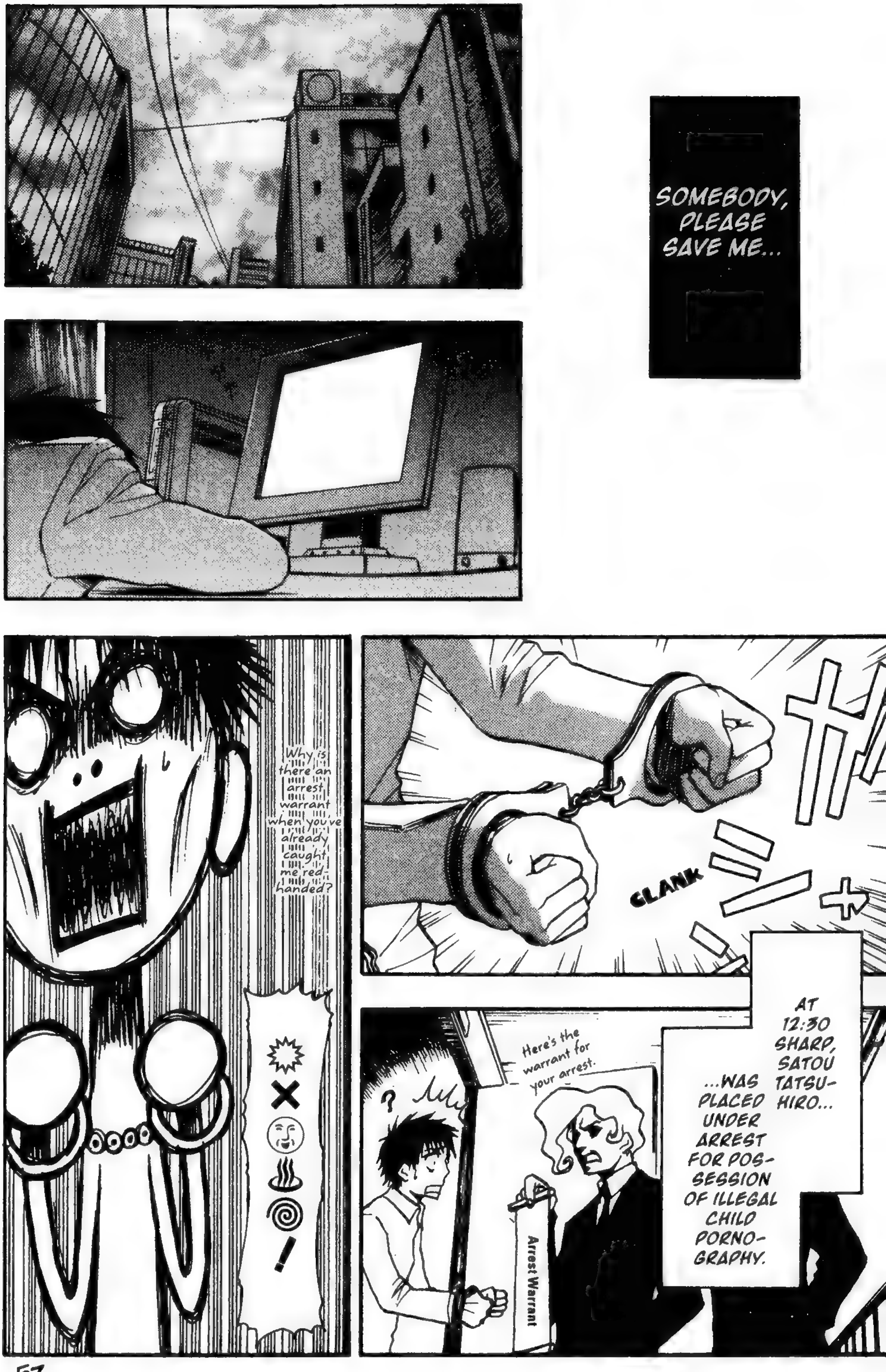

DROP THE ATTITUDE!
YOU WANT TO BE A CREATOR, RIGHT?
......?
ゴゴゴ
ARE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT THIS OR NOT?
ゴゴゴ
You've got no choice as it is.
H-HEY, MAN, I WAS JUST KIDDING! I'LL WRITE! I CAN WRITE A STORY, YAMAZAKI!
REALLY?
GREAT! IN THAT CASE, WE'VE STILL GOT THE OPTION OF BEING *GAME DESIGNERS*.
AH HA!
PLUS, IF WE'RE ABLE TO CREATE SOME SIMPLE TEXT AND ILLUSTRATIONS, WE COULD EVEN BECOME MILLIONAIRES!

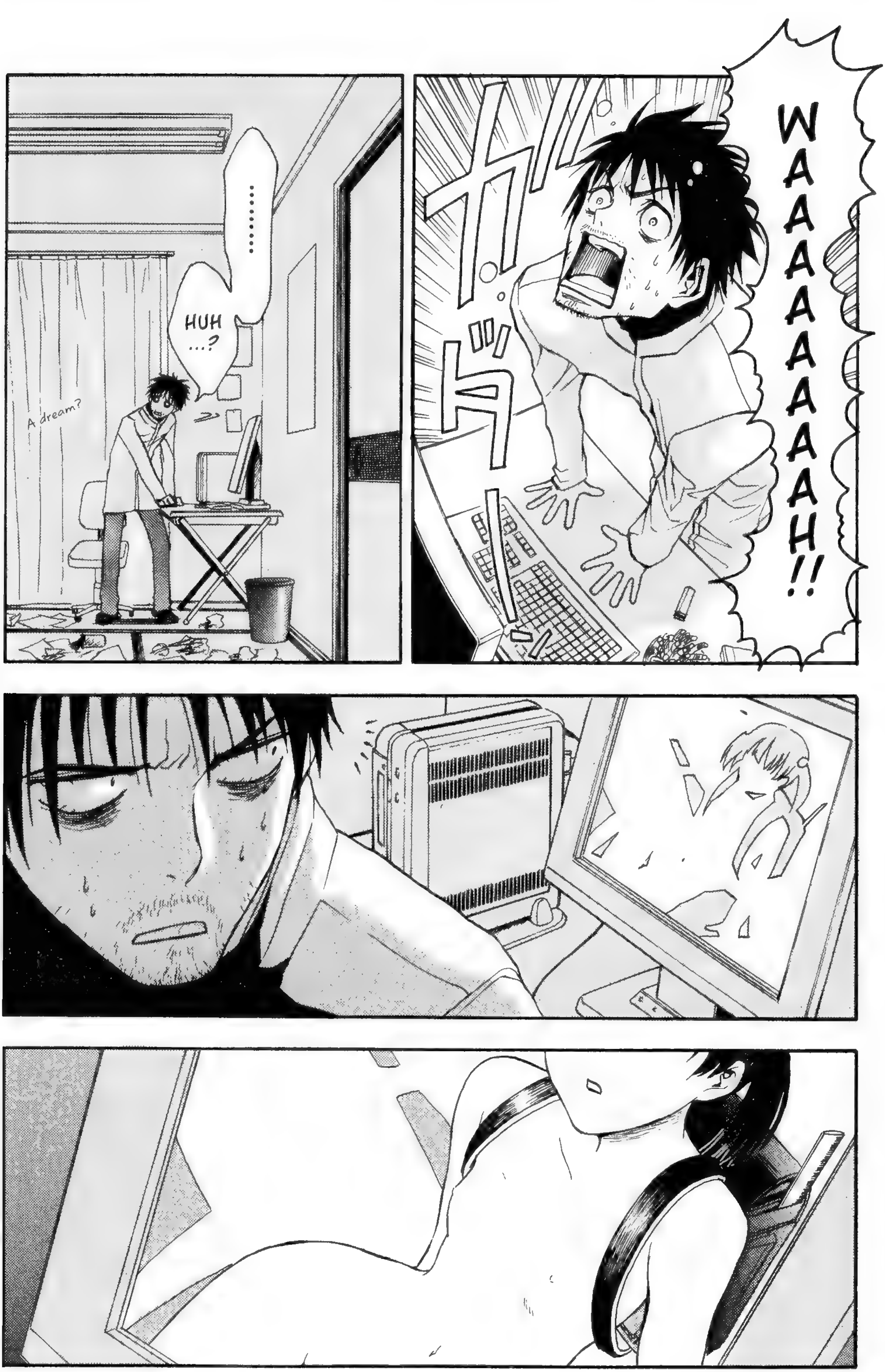

GAME DESIGNER, HUH?!
YESSSS!
This is it!
YAMAZAKI, THAT'S AMAZING! SO WHAT SORT OF GAME SHOULD WE MAKE?
BEFORE THAT... YOU HAVE TO PROMISE ME SOMETHING.
THE FURTHER WE PROGRESS, THE BLOODIER THE ROAD MAY BECOME.
I didn't want to get you involved in this...
AND ONCE WE START THIS, THERE'S NO GIVING UP, NO MATTER WHAT!
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME! I'LL BE JUST FINE! I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO BECOME A DESIGNER!
You're too pessimistic, Yamazaki! We'll stick together through thick and thin!
IT'S A PROMISE! SO WHAT'S THE GAME GENRE?

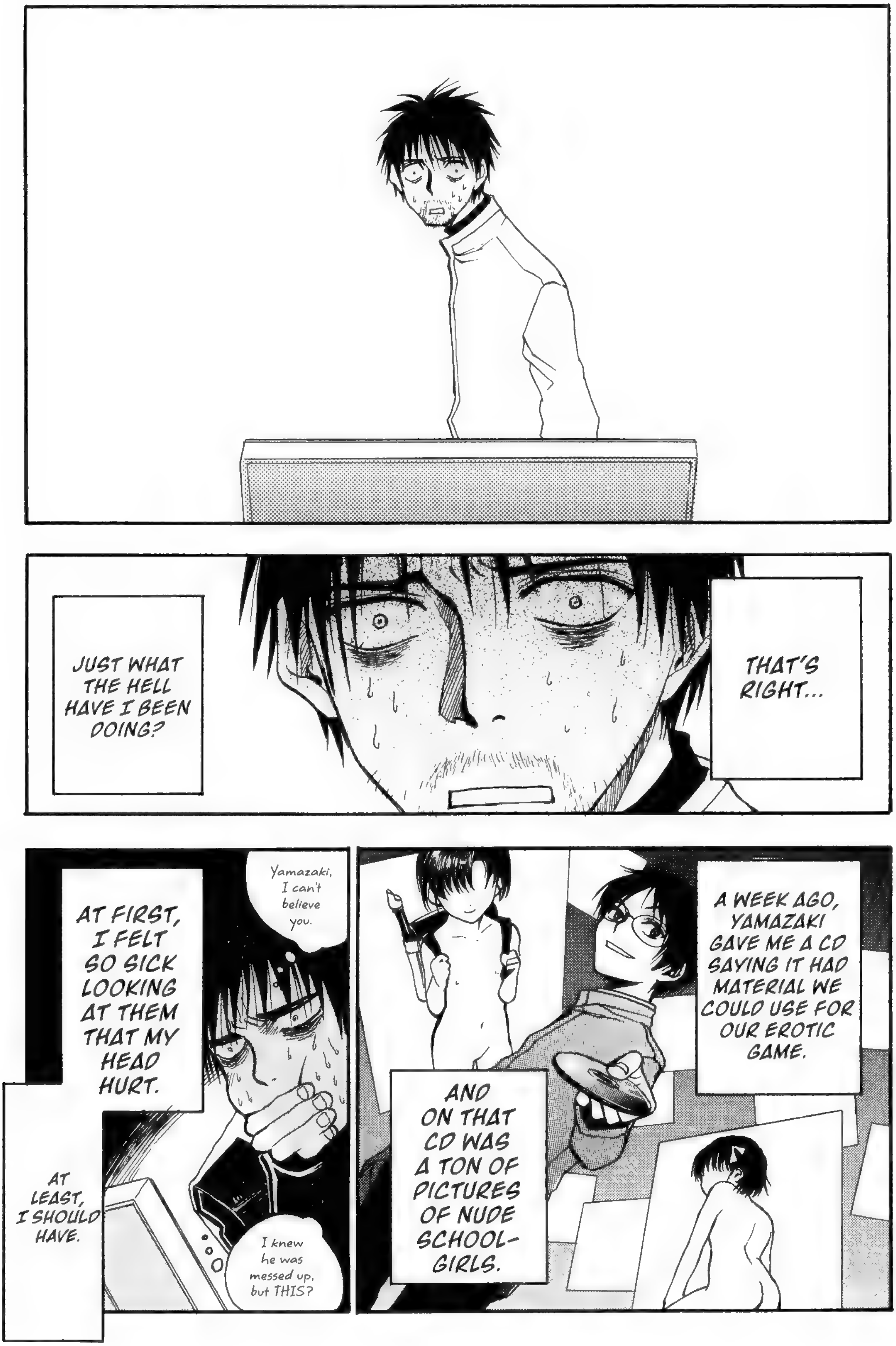

AN ERO-GAME!
WHAT?
IN OTHER WORDS, AN EROTIC GAME GEARED TOWARDS THE 18 AND OLDER MARKET.
LET'S FLY TO THE TOP WITH AN EROTIC GAME! OUR SEX GAME WILL BE SO GREAT WE'LL WIN THE ORDER OF CULTURE*!

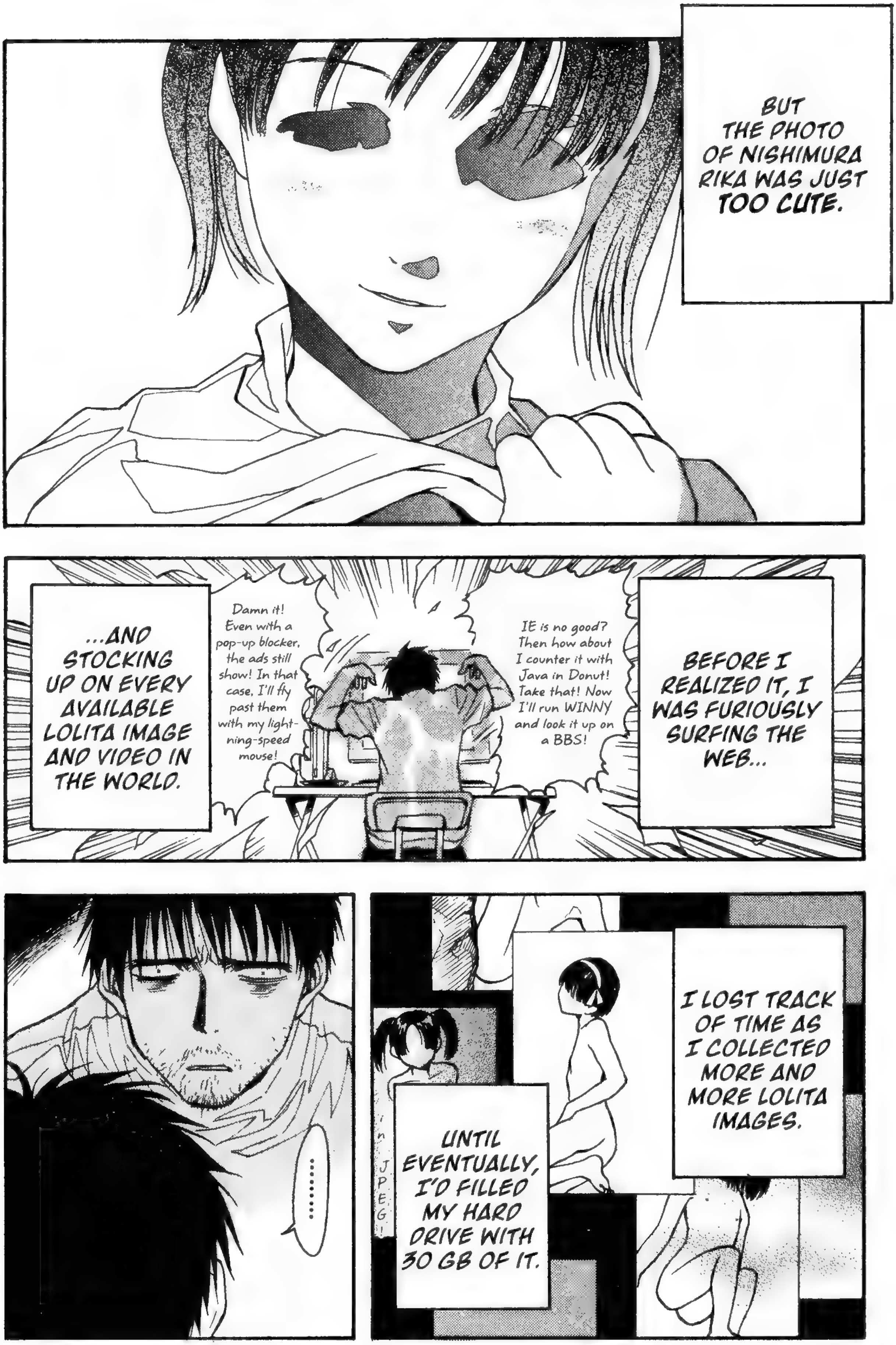
*Check the Glossary on page 180.

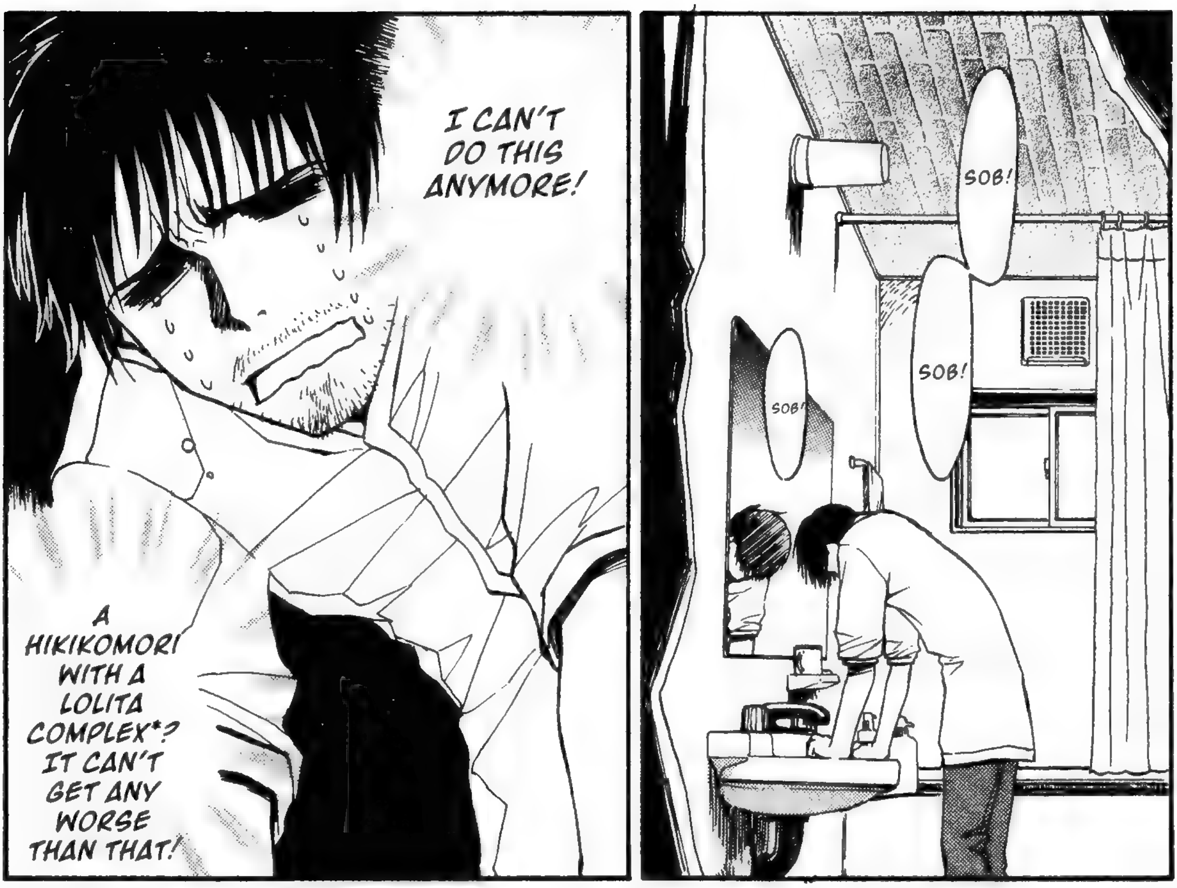



SOMEBODY, PLEASE SAVE ME...
CLANK
AT 12:30 SHARP, SATOU TATSUHIRO...
...WAS PLACED UNDER ARREST FOR POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY.
Here's the warrant for your arrest.
Arrest Warrant
?
Why is there an arrest warrant when you've already caught me red-handed?
✹ ✕ ☺ ♨ ◎ !

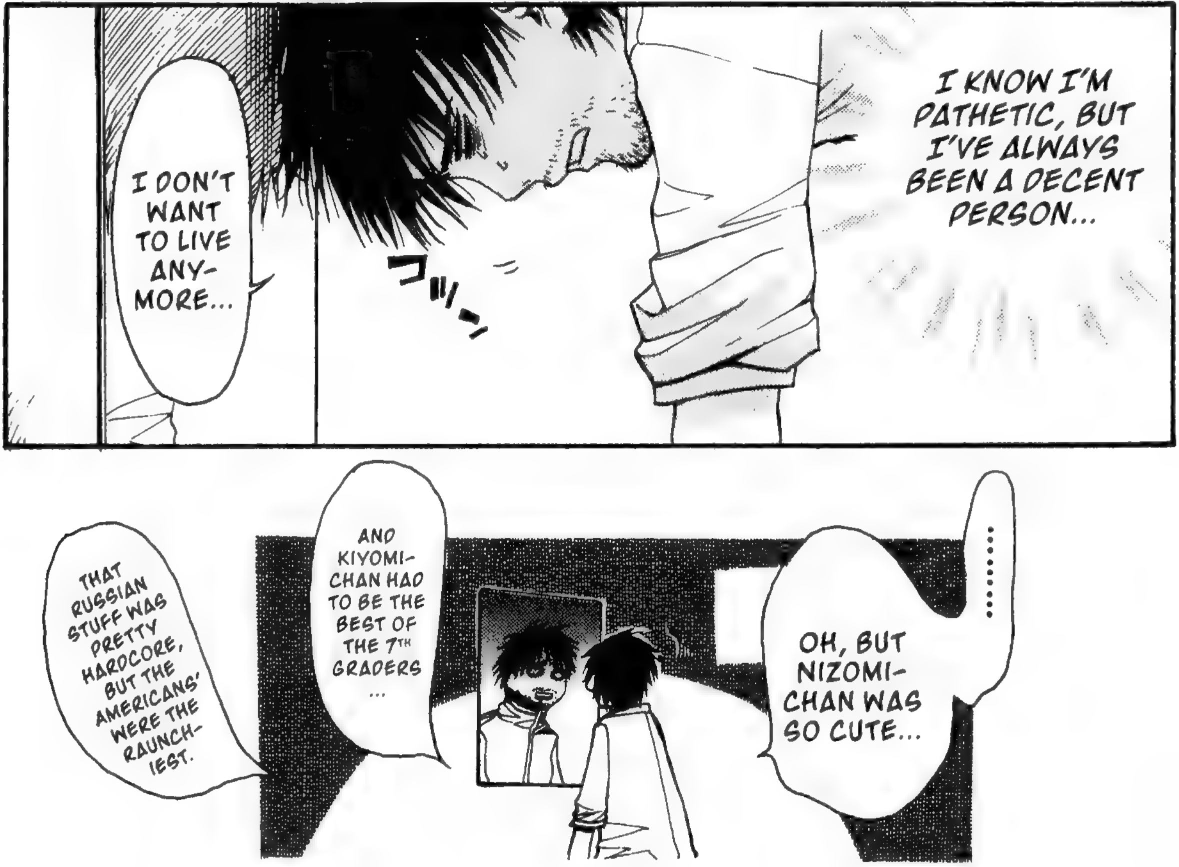

WAAAAAAAAH!!
ガ!!
ダ!
....
HUH ...?
A dream?

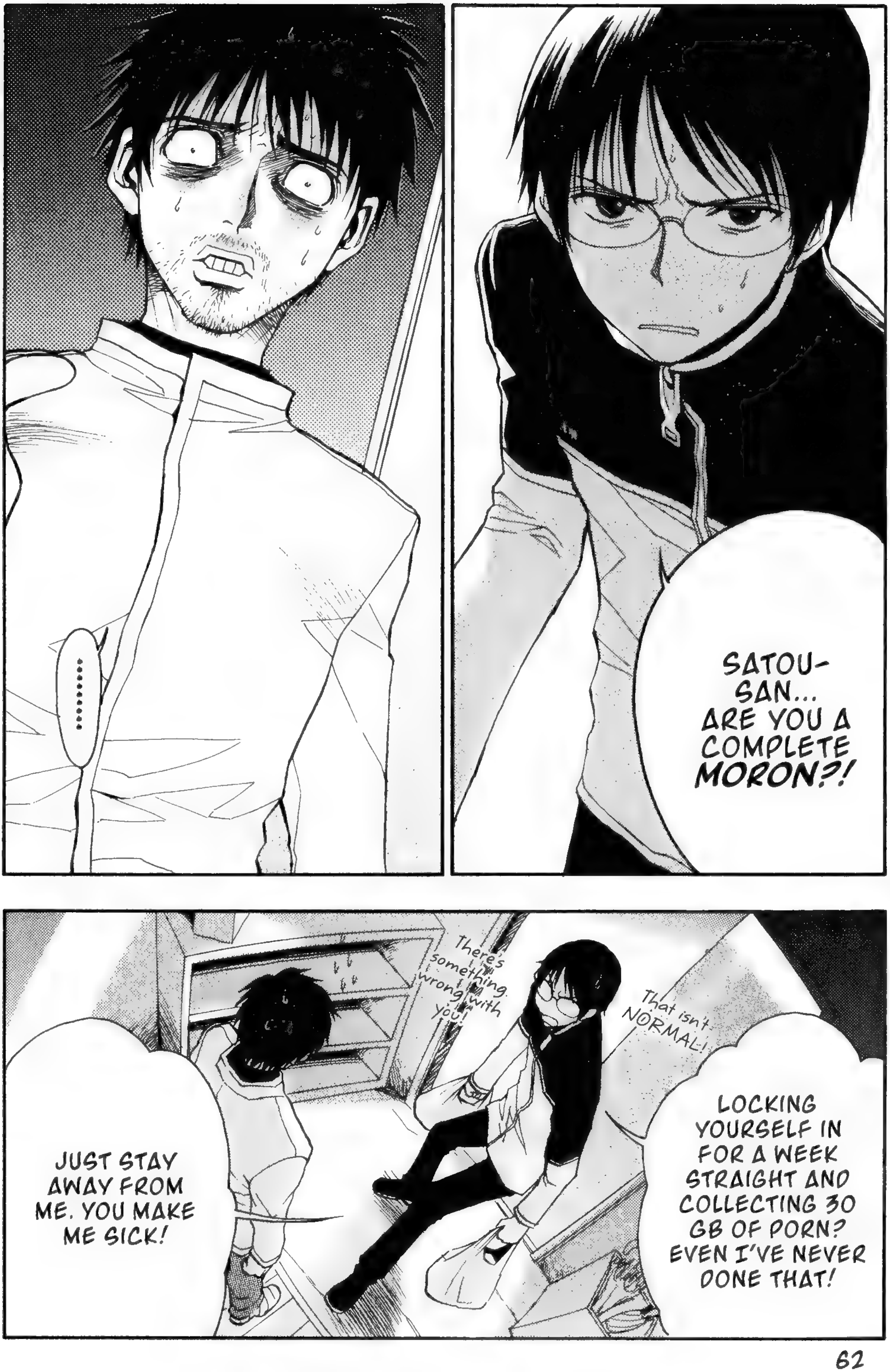

THAT'S RIGHT...
JUST WHAT THE HELL HAVE I BEEN DOING?
A WEEK AGO, YAMAZAKI GAVE ME A CD SAYING IT HAD MATERIAL WE COULD USE FOR OUR EROTIC GAME.
AND ON THAT CD WAS A TON OF PICTURES OF NUDE SCHOOL-GIRLS.
Yamazaki, I can't believe you.
AT FIRST, I FELT SO SICK LOOKING AT THEM THAT MY HEAD HURT.
I knew he was messed up, but THIS?
AT LEAST, I SHOULD HAVE.

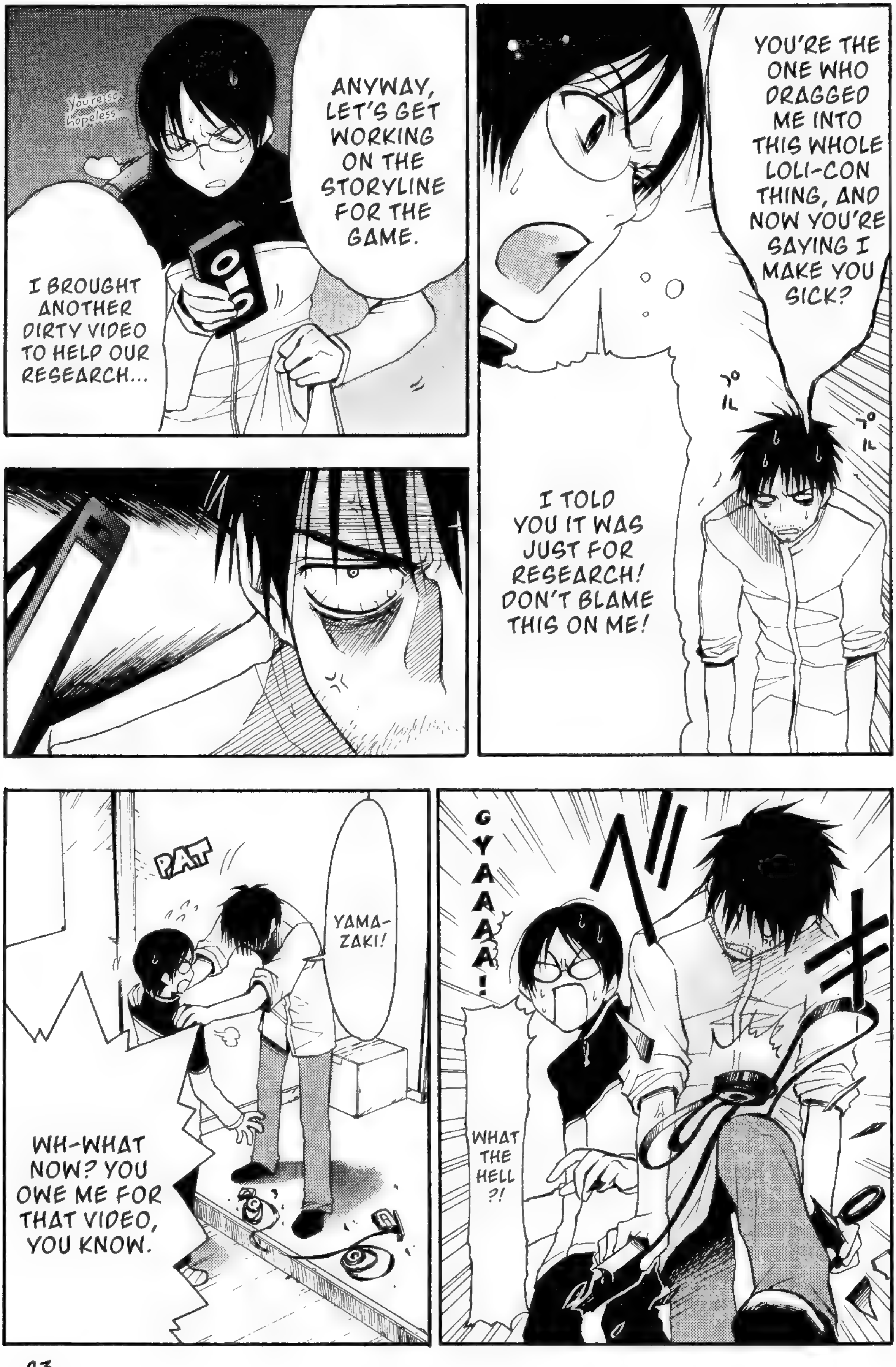

BUT THE PHOTO OF NISHIMURA RIKA WAS JUST TOO CUTE.
BEFORE I REALIZED IT, I WAS FURIOUSLY SURFING THE WEB...
IE is no good? Then how about I counter it with Java in Donut! Take that! Now I'll run WINNY and look it up on a BBS!
Damn it! Even with a pop-up blocker, the ads still show! In that case, I'll fly past them with my lightning-speed mouse!
...AND STOCKING UP ON EVERY AVAILABLE LOLITA IMAGE AND VIDEO IN THE WORLD.
I LOST TRACK OF TIME AS I COLLECTED MORE AND MORE LOLITA IMAGES.
UNTIL EVENTUALLY, I'D FILLED MY HARD DRIVE WITH 30 GB OF IT.
in JPEG!
....

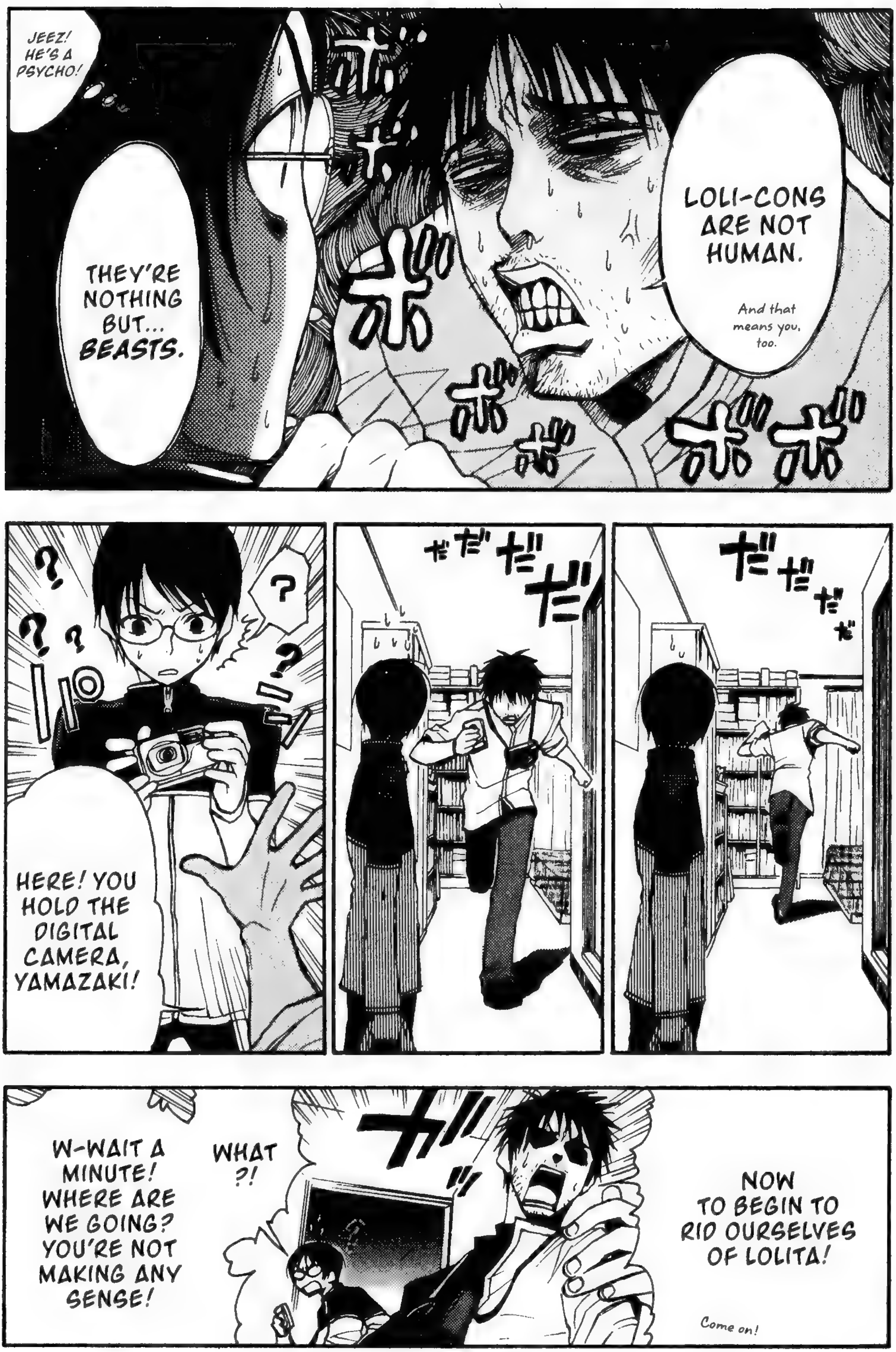

SOB!
SOB!
SOB!
I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE!
A HIKIKOMORI WITH A LOLITA COMPLEX*? IT CAN'T GET ANY WORSE THAN THAT!

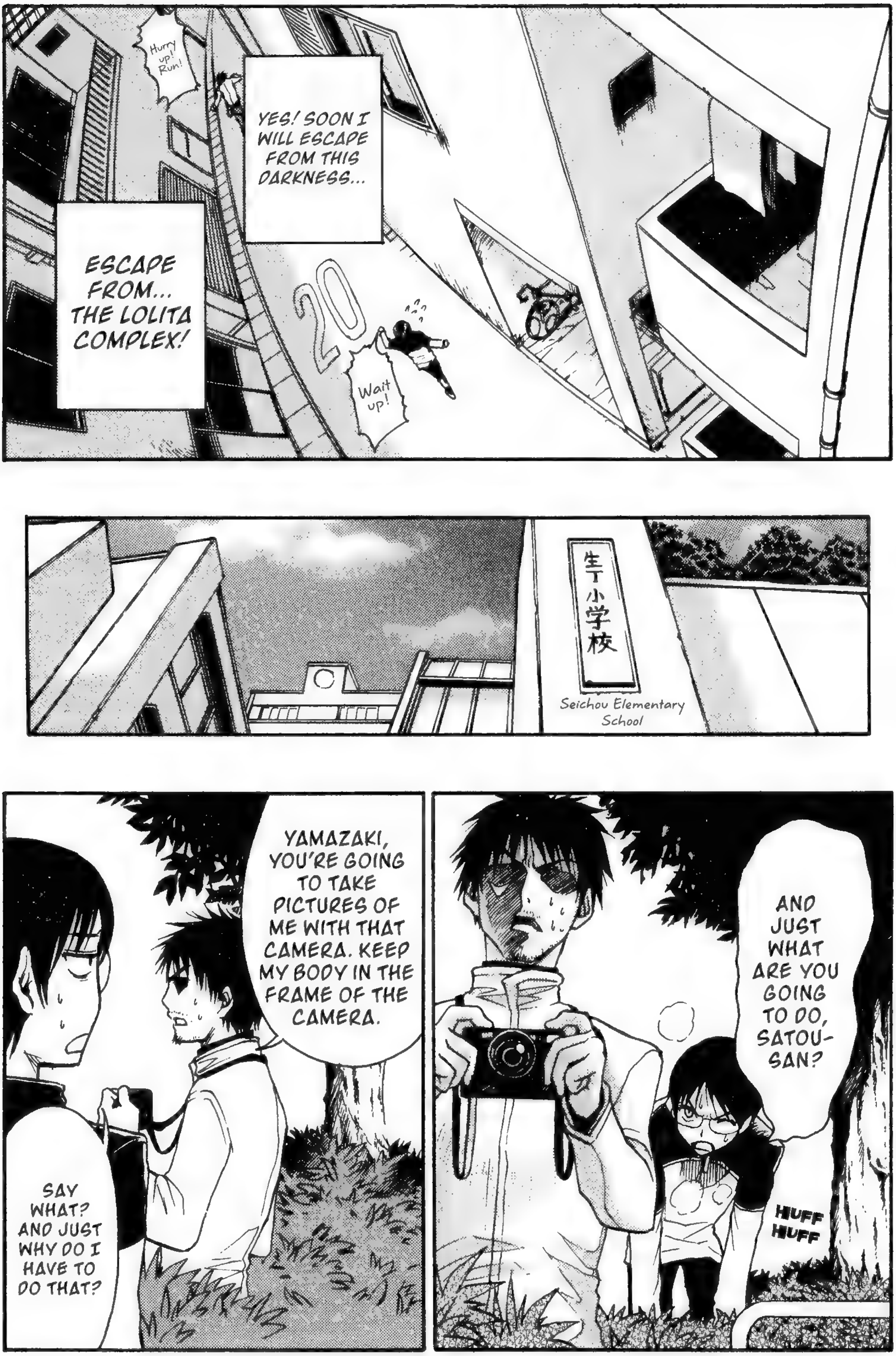
*Check the Glossary on Page 180.

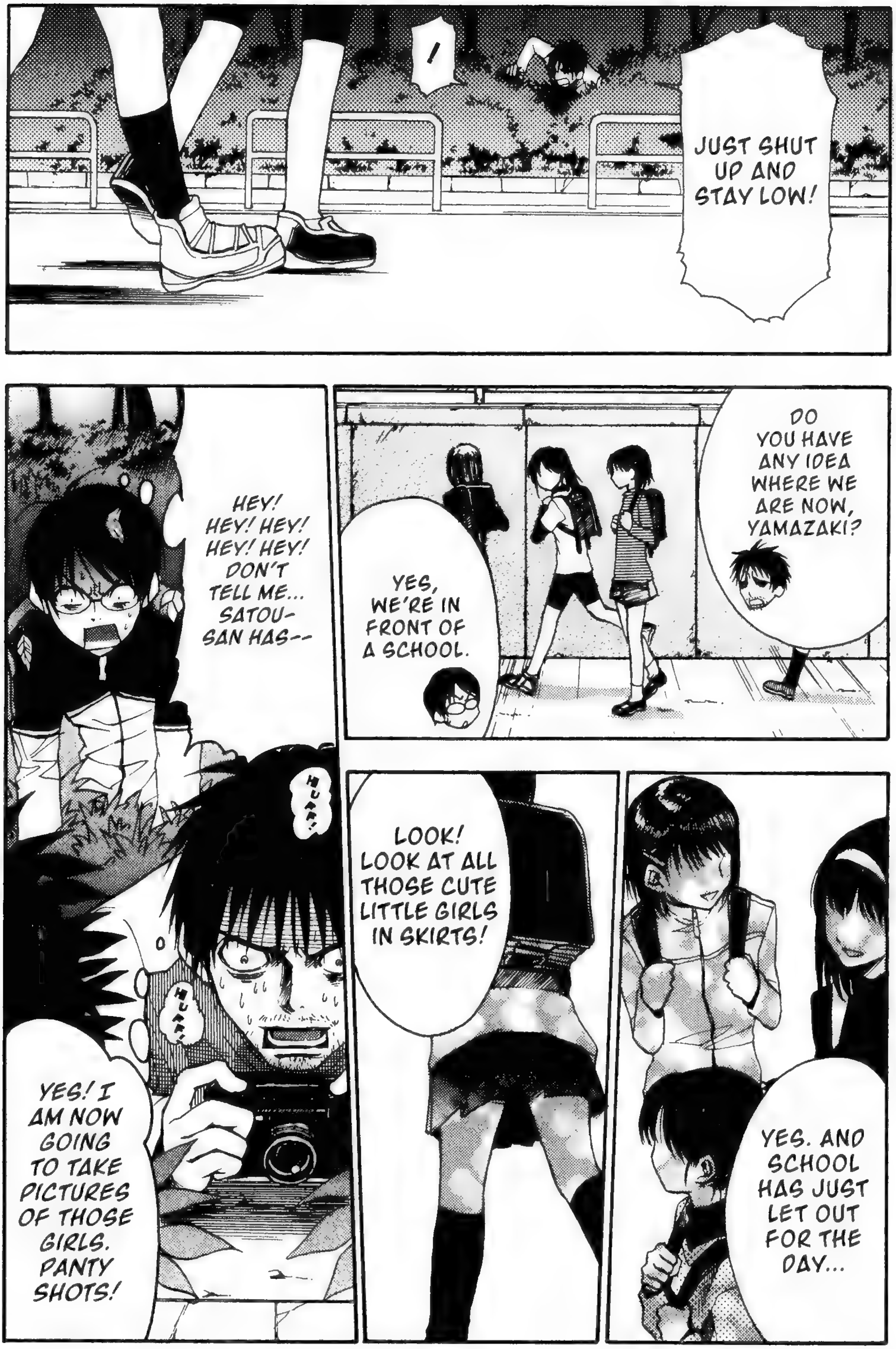

I KNOW I'M PATHETIC, BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A DECENT PERSON...
I DON'T WANT TO LIVE ANYMORE...
......
OH, BUT NIZOMI-CHAN WAS SO CUTE...
AND KIYOMI-CHAN HAD TO BE THE BEST OF THE 7th GRADERS...
THAT RUSSIAN STUFF WAS PRETTY HARDCORE, BUT THE AMERICANS' WERE THE RAUNCHIEST.

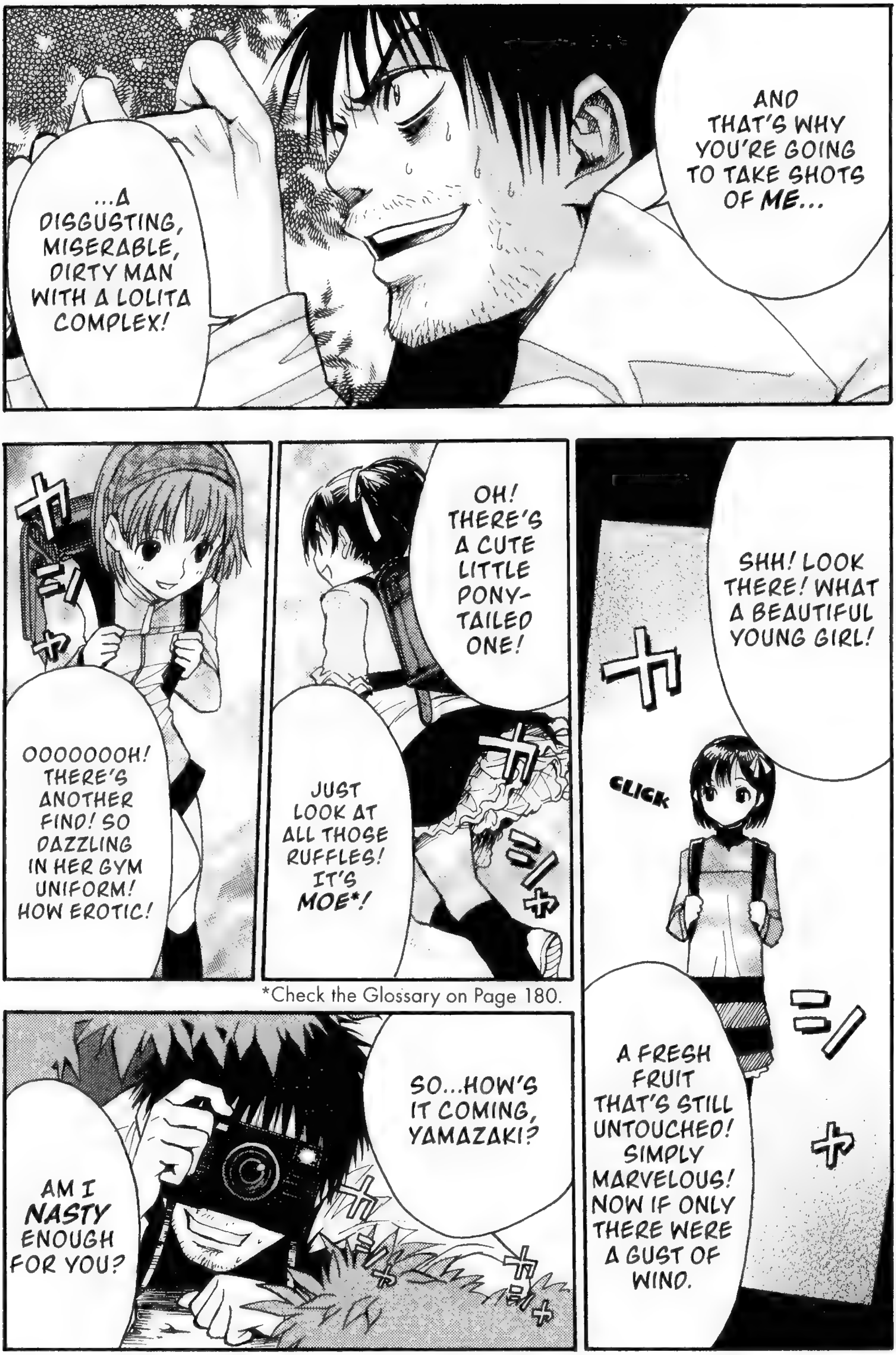

SATOU-SAN... ARE YOU A COMPLETE *MORON?!*
....
LOCKING YOURSELF IN FOR A WEEK STRAIGHT AND COLLECTING 30 GB OF PORN? EVEN I'VE NEVER DONE THAT!
That isn't NORMAL!
There's something wrong with you!
JUST STAY AWAY FROM ME. YOU MAKE ME SICK!


YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DRAGGED ME INTO THIS WHOLE LOLI-CON THING, AND NOW YOU'RE SAYING I MAKE YOU SICK?
プル
プル
I TOLD YOU IT WAS JUST FOR RESEARCH! DON'T BLAME THIS ON ME!
You're so hopeless
ANYWAY, LET'S GET WORKING ON THE STORYLINE FOR THE GAME.
I BROUGHT ANOTHER DIRTY VIDEO TO HELP OUR RESEARCH...
GYAAAAA!
WHAT THE HELL ?!
YAMA-ZAKI!
PAT
WH-WHAT NOW? YOU OWE ME FOR THAT VIDEO, YOU KNOW.

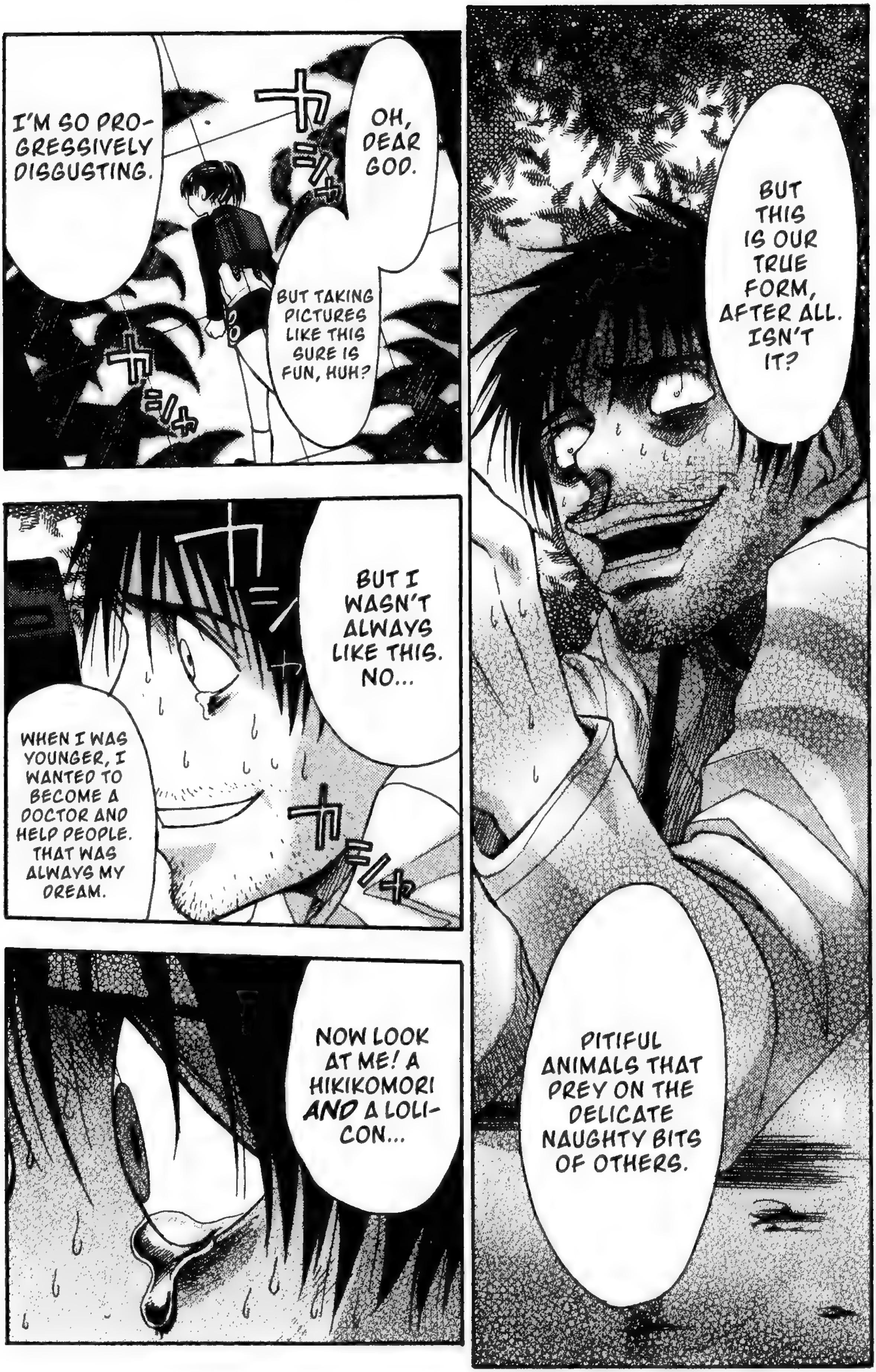

LOLI-CONS ARE NOT HUMAN.
And that means you, too.
THEY'RE NOTHING BUT... *BEASTS.*
JEEZ! HE'S A PSYCHO!
ボボボボボボボ
だだだだ
だだだだ
HERE! YOU HOLD THE DIGITAL CAMERA, YAMAZAKI!
パ
?? ? ?
NOW TO BEGIN TO RID OURSELVES OF LOLITA!
Come on!
ガッ
WHAT?!
W-WAIT A MINUTE! WHERE ARE WE GOING? YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE!

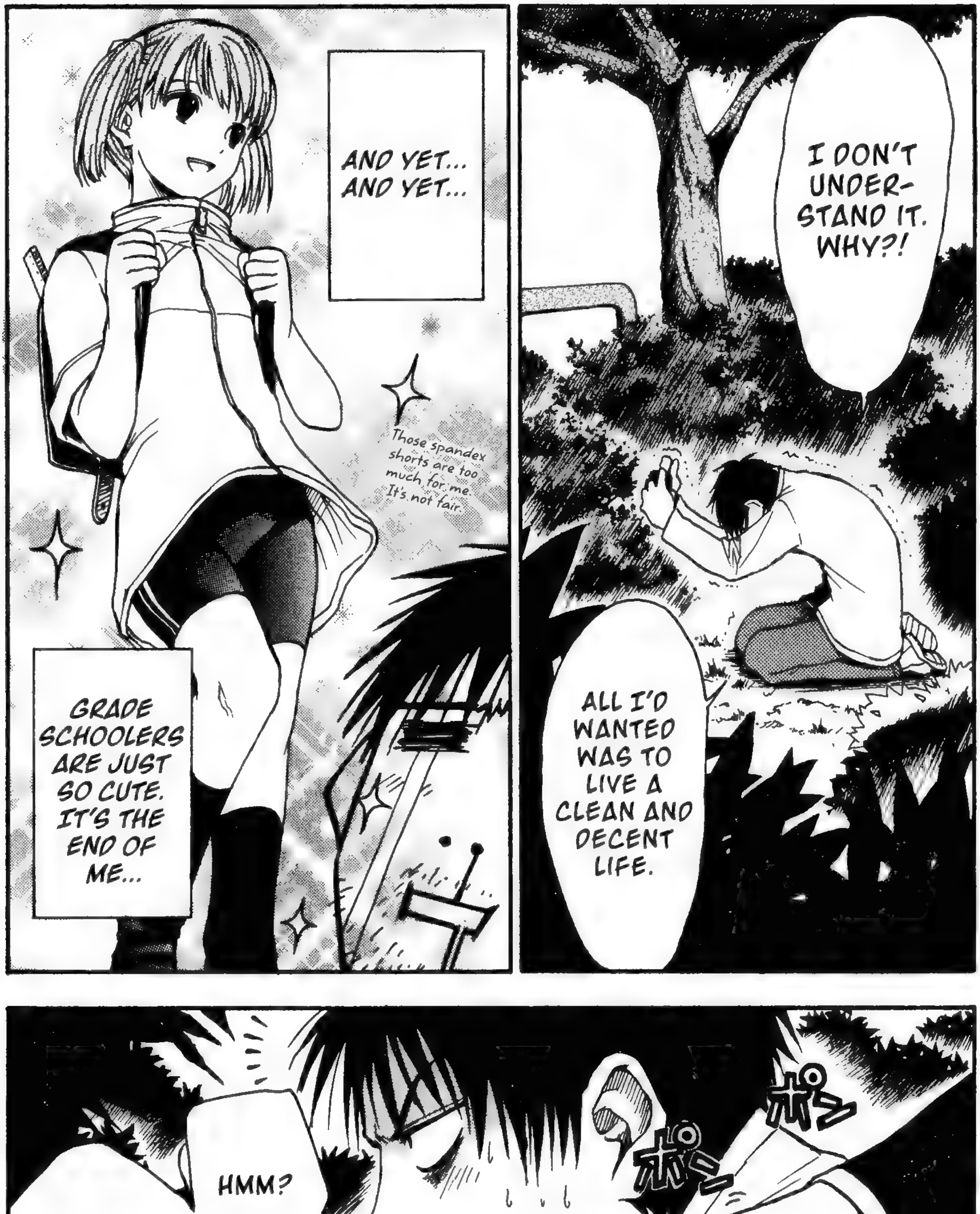

YES! SOON I WILL ESCAPE FROM THIS DARKNESS...
ESCAPE FROM... THE LOLITA COMPLEX!
Hurry up! Run!
Wait up!
生丁小学校
Seichou Elementary School
AND JUST WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, SATOU-SAN?
HUFF HUFF
YAMAZAKI, YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE PICTURES OF ME WITH THAT CAMERA. KEEP MY BODY IN THE FRAME OF THE CAMERA.
SAY WHAT? AND JUST WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THAT?

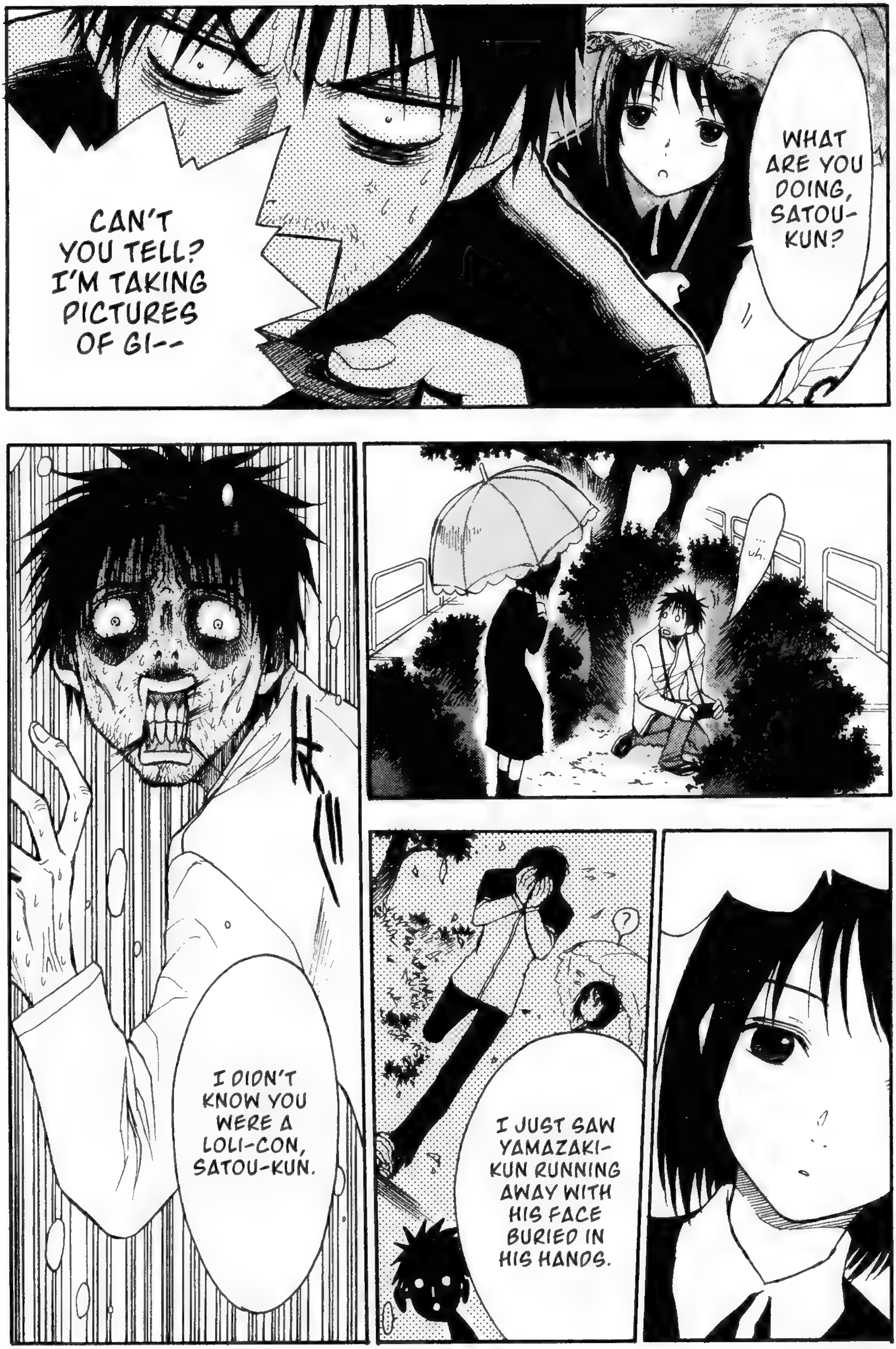

!
JUST SHUT UP AND STAY LOW!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE WE ARE NOW, YAMAZAKI?
YES, WE'RE IN FRONT OF A SCHOOL.
HEY! HEY! HEY! HEY! HEY! DON'T TELL ME... SATOU-SAN HAS--
YES. AND SCHOOL HAS JUST LET OUT FOR THE DAY...
LOOK! LOOK AT ALL THOSE CUTE LITTLE GIRLS IN SKIRTS!
HUFF!
HUFF!
YES! I AM NOW GOING TO TAKE PICTURES OF THOSE GIRLS. PANTY SHOTS!

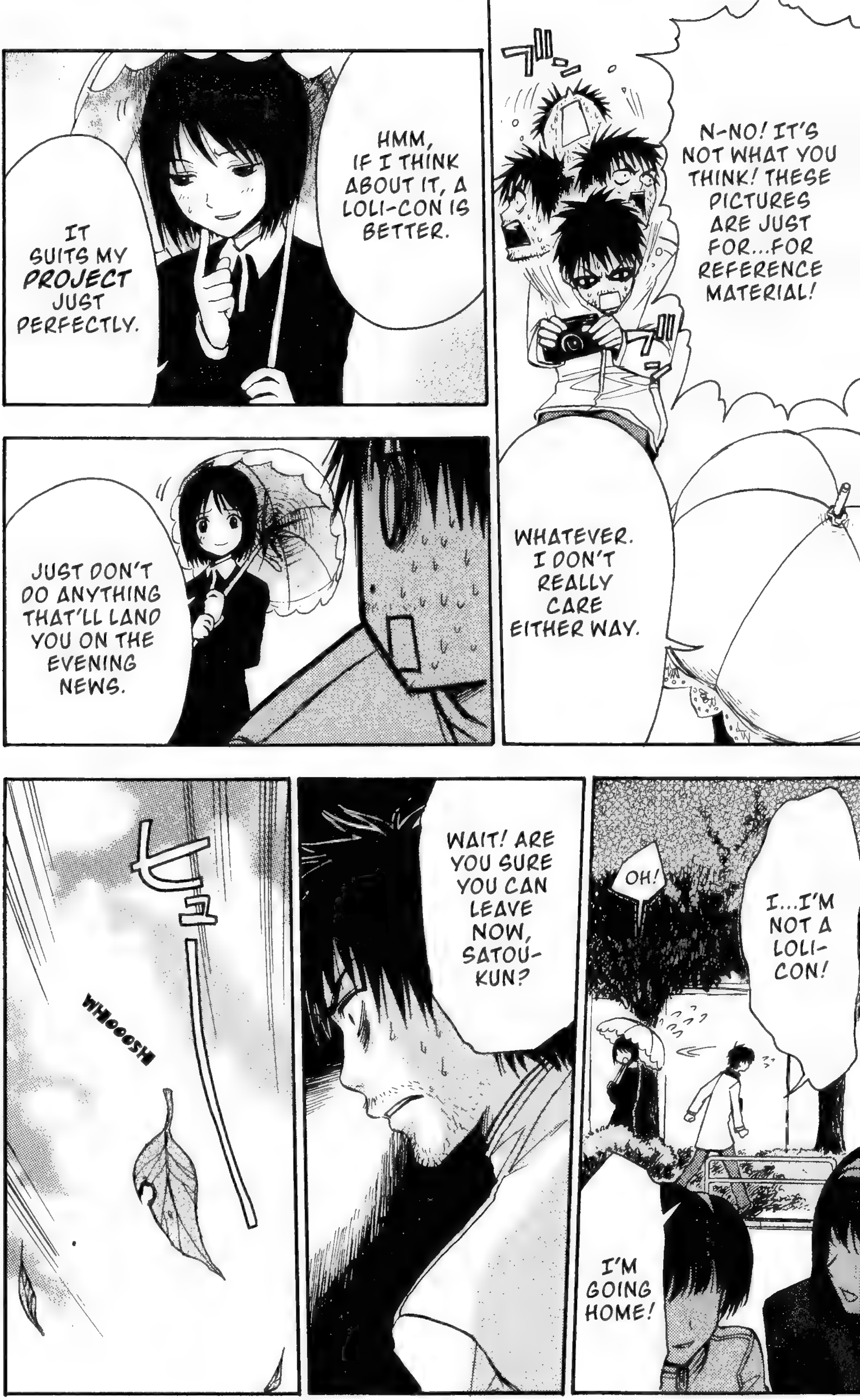

AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE SHOTS OF **ME**...
...A DISGUSTING, MISERABLE, DIRTY MAN WITH A LOLITA COMPLEX!
SHH! LOOK THERE! WHAT A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG GIRL!
ニヤ
CLICK
ニヤ
A FRESH FRUIT THAT'S STILL UNTOUCHED! SIMPLY MARVELOUS! NOW IF ONLY THERE WERE A GUST OF WIND.
OH! THERE'S A CUTE LITTLE PONY-TAILED ONE!
ニヤ
JUST LOOK AT ALL THOSE RUFFLES! IT'S **MOE***!
ニヤ
OOOOOOOH! THERE'S ANOTHER FIND! SO DAZZLING IN HER GYM UNIFORM! HOW EROTIC!
SO...HOW'S IT COMING, YAMAZAKI?
ニヤ
AM I **NASTY** ENOUGH FOR YOU?

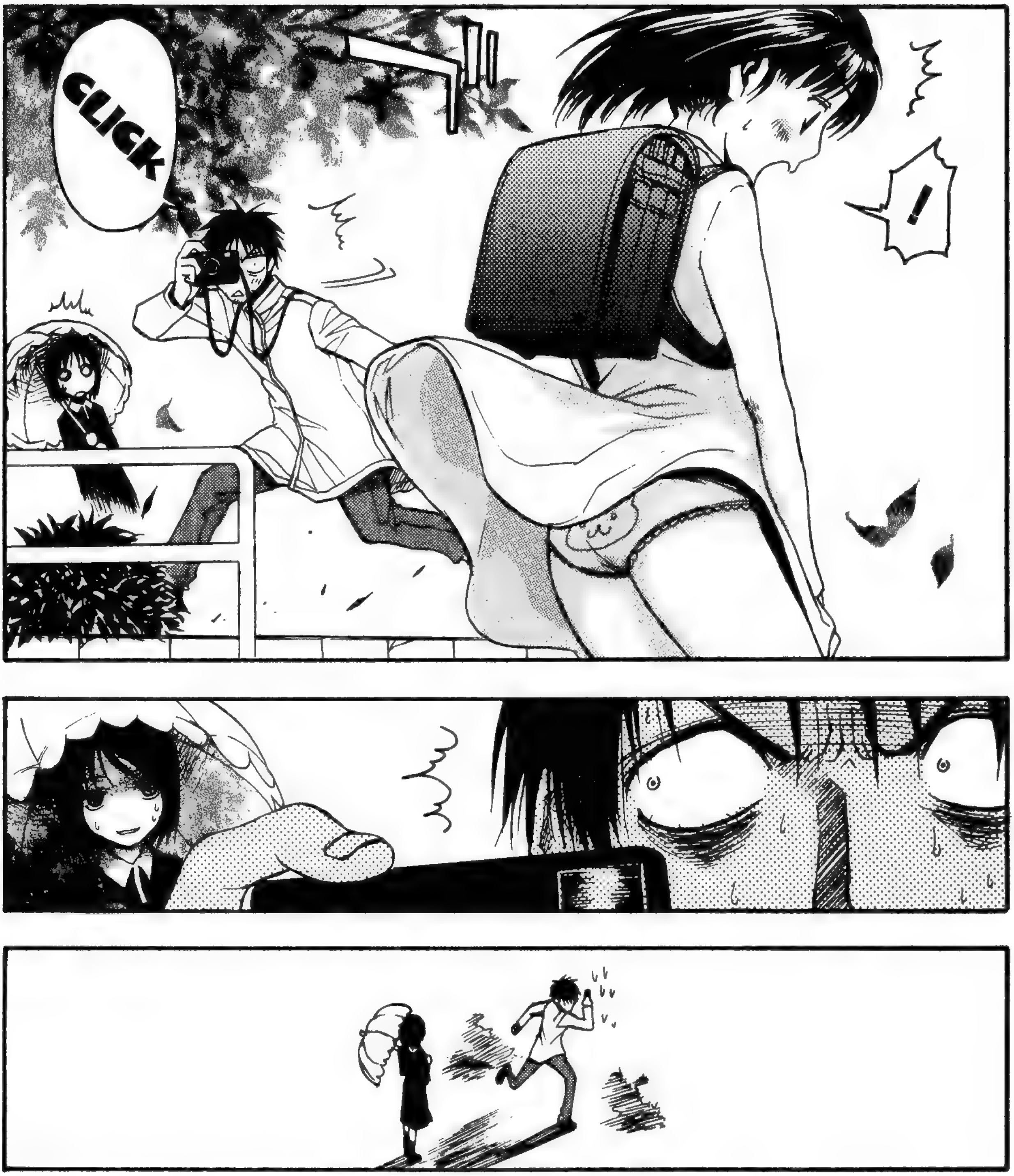
*Check the Glossary on Page 180.

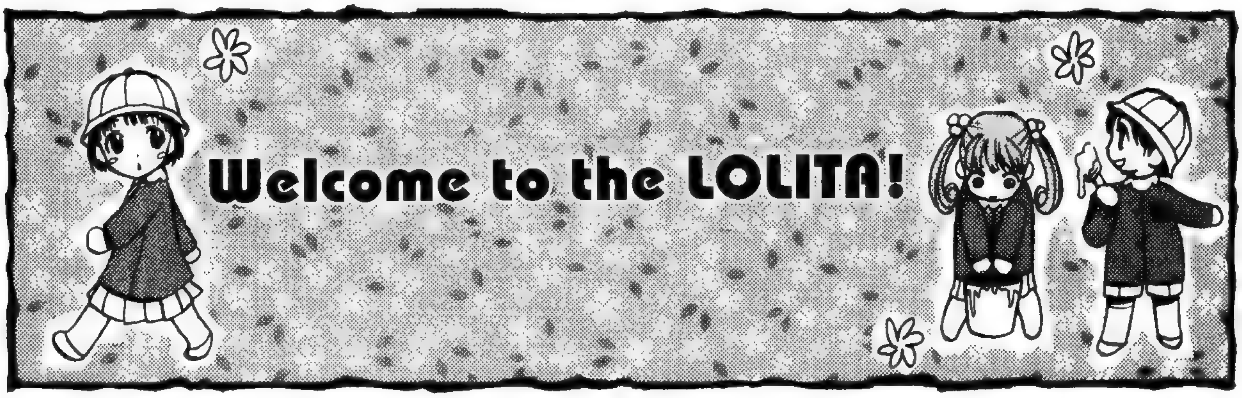

カシャ
OH, DEAR GOD.
I'M SO PROGRESSIVELY DISGUSTING.
カシャ
BUT TAKING PICTURES LIKE THIS SURE IS FUN, HUH?
カシャ
BUT I WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE THIS. NO...
カシャ
WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I WANTED TO BECOME A DOCTOR AND HELP PEOPLE. THAT WAS ALWAYS MY DREAM.
NOW LOOK AT ME! A HIKIKOMORI *AND* A LOLICON...
BUT THIS IS OUR TRUE FORM, AFTER ALL. ISN'T IT?
PITIFUL ANIMALS THAT PREY ON THE DELICATE NAUGHTY BITS OF OTHERS.


I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT. WHY?!
ALL I'D WANTED WAS TO LIVE A CLEAN AND DECENT LIFE.
AND YET... AND YET...
Those spandex shorts are too much for me It's not fair.
GRADE SCHOOLERS ARE JUST SO CUTE. IT'S THE END OF ME...
ポン
ポー
HMM?
WHAT IS IT NOW, YAMAZAKI? I WAS JUST GETTING TO THE GOOD PART.


WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SATOU-KUN?
CAN'T YOU TELL? I'M TAKING PICTURES OF GI--
...uh.
?
I JUST SAW YAMAZAKI-KUN RUNNING AWAY WITH HIS FACE BURIED IN HIS HANDS.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE A LOLI-CON, SATOU-KUN.


ブルッ
N-NO! IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK! THESE PICTURES ARE JUST FOR...FOR REFERENCE MATERIAL!
ブル
WHATEVER. I DON'T REALLY CARE EITHER WAY.
HMM, IF I THINK ABOUT IT, A LOLI-CON IS BETTER.
IT SUITS MY **PROJECT** JUST PERFECTLY.
JUST DON'T DO ANYTHING THAT'LL LAND YOU ON THE EVENING NEWS.
I...I'M NOT A LOLI-CON!
OH!
I'M GOING HOME!
WAIT! ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN LEAVE NOW, SATOU-KUN?
ヒュー
WHOOOSH


!
CLICK

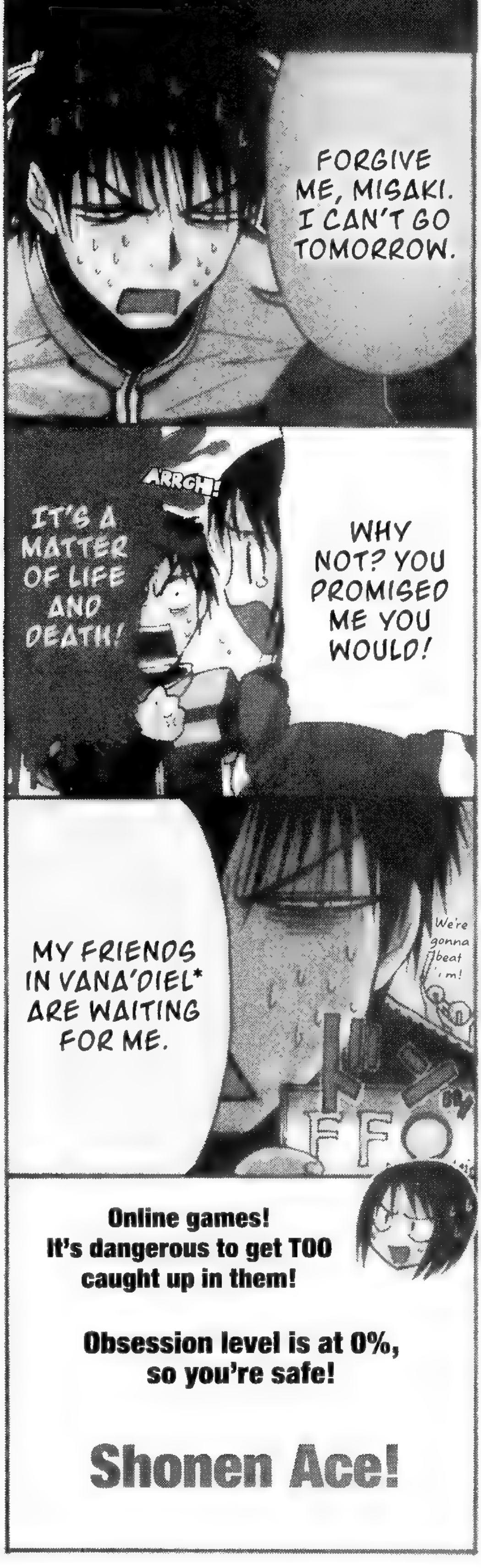

Welcome to the LOLITA!

WelcometotheN.H.K.

#02 Welcome to the LOLITA!

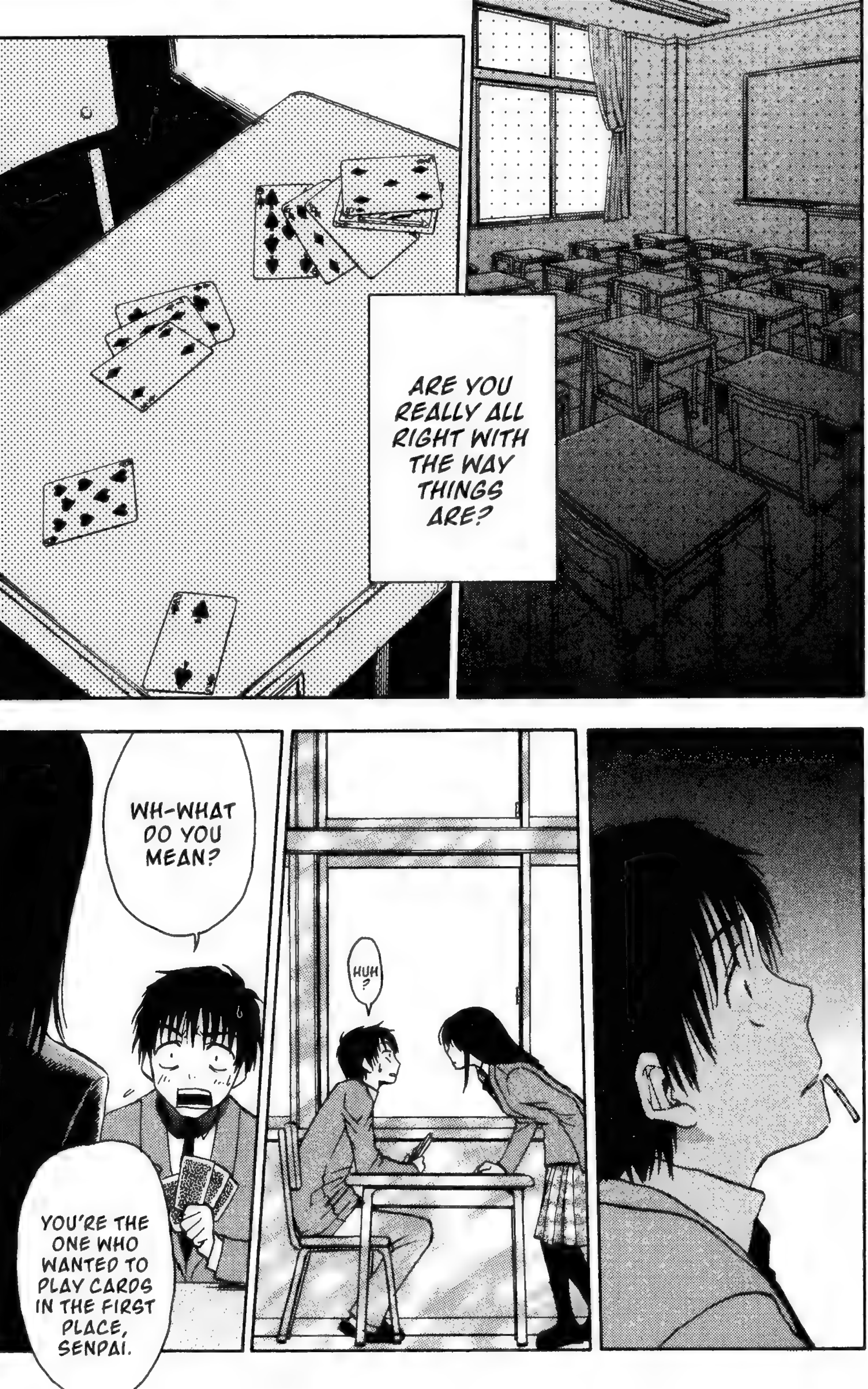
CONTINUED IN EPISODE #03...

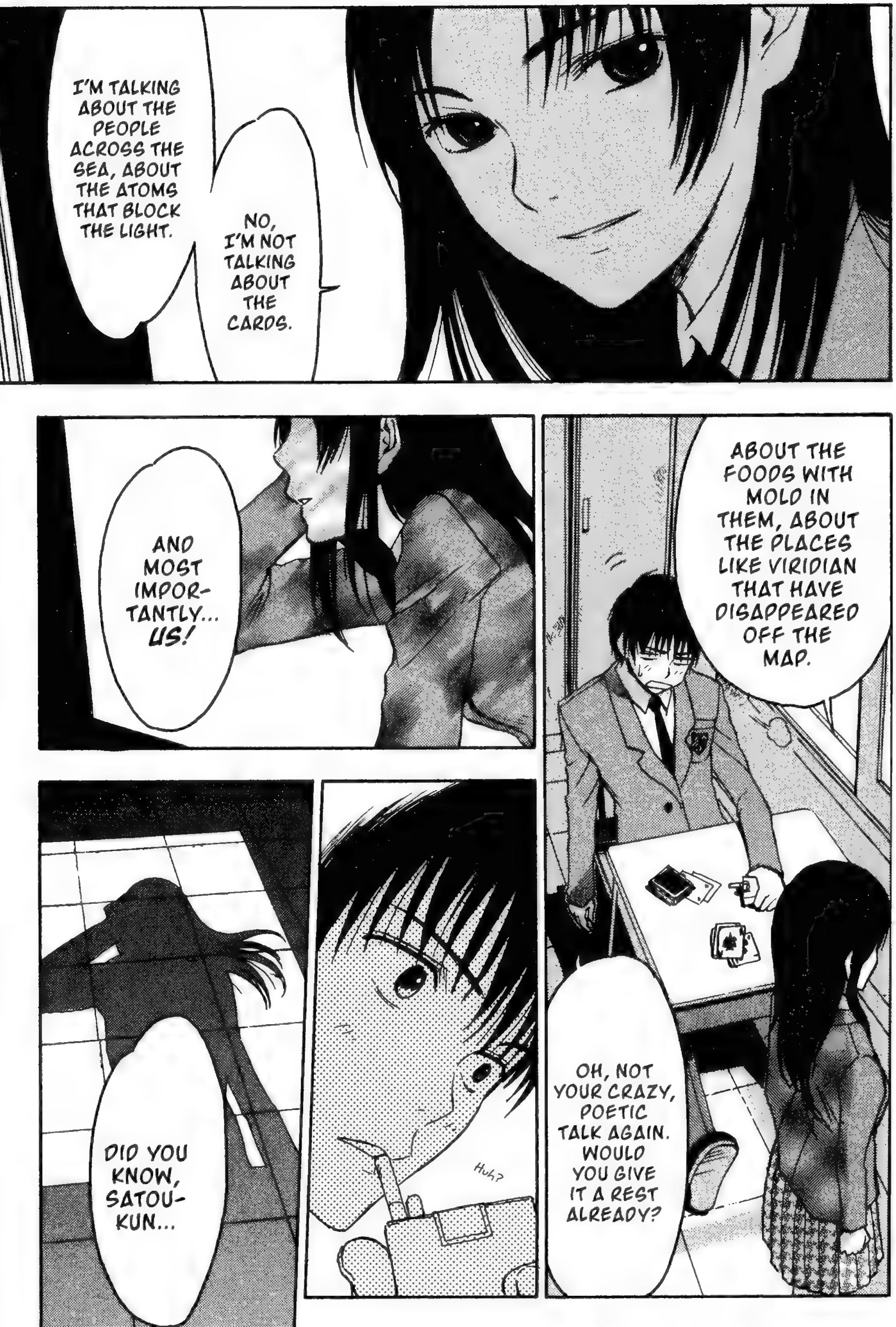
Welcome to the N.H.K!
4-Panel Comic – #2

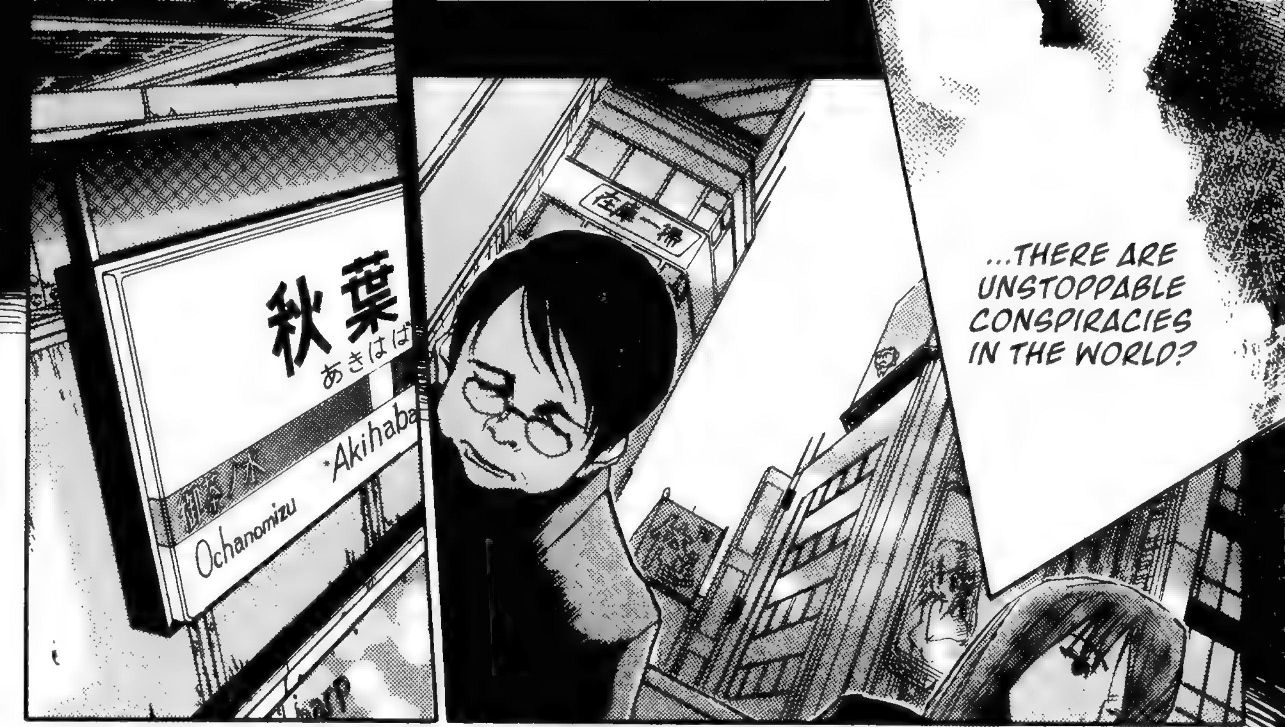

FORGIVE ME, MISAKI. I CAN'T GO TOMORROW.
WHY NOT? YOU PROMISED ME YOU WOULD!
ARRGH!
IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!
We're gonna beat 'em!
MY FRIENDS IN VANA'DIEL* ARE WAITING FOR ME.
Online games! It's dangerous to get TOO caught up in them!
Obsession level is at 0%, so you're safe!
Shonen Ace!

*Check the Glossary on Page 180.

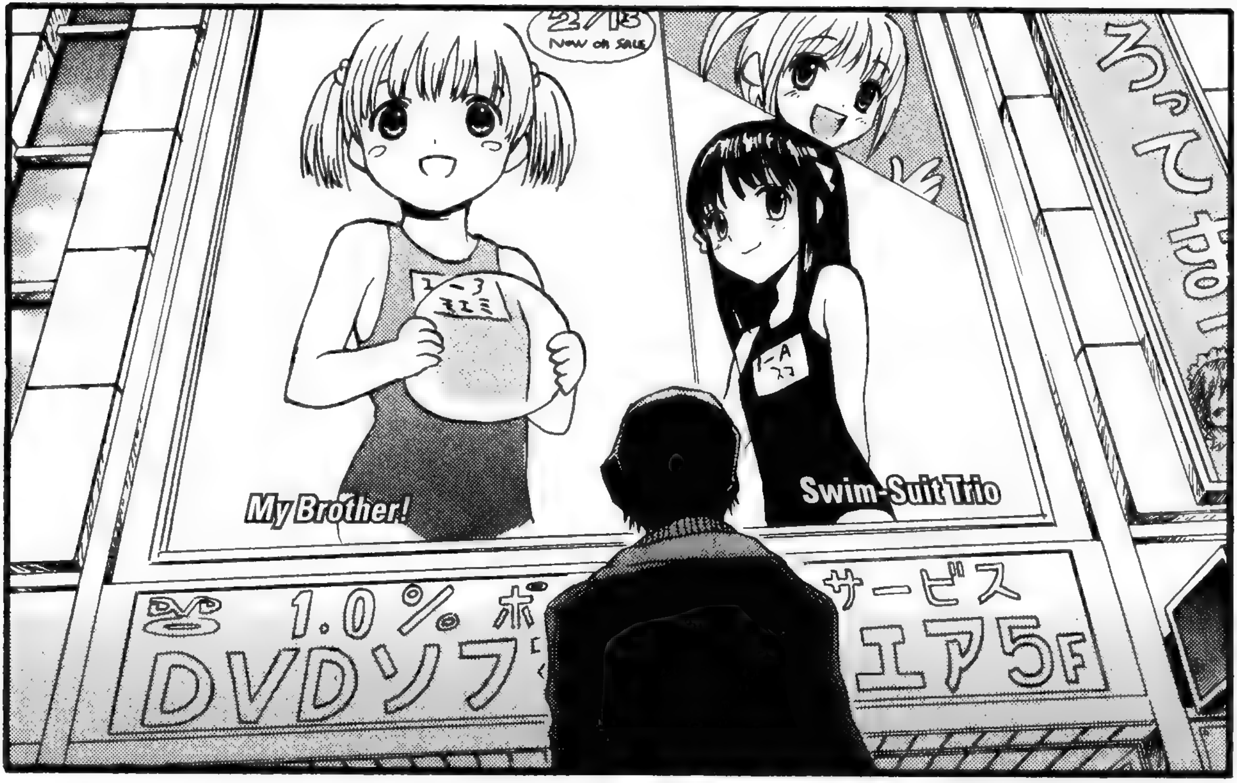
Chapter 3
Welcome to the NEW WORLD!

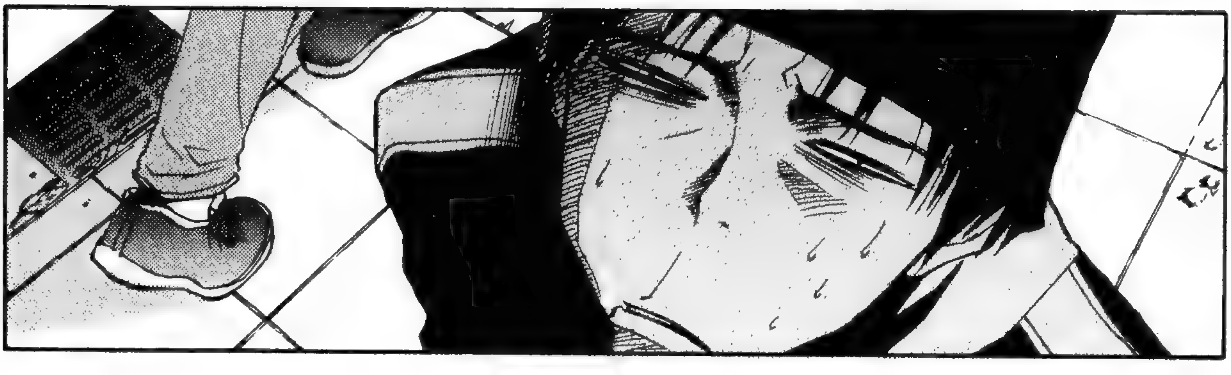

ARE YOU REALLY ALL RIGHT WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE?
HUH?
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO PLAY CARDS IN THE FIRST PLACE, SENPAI.

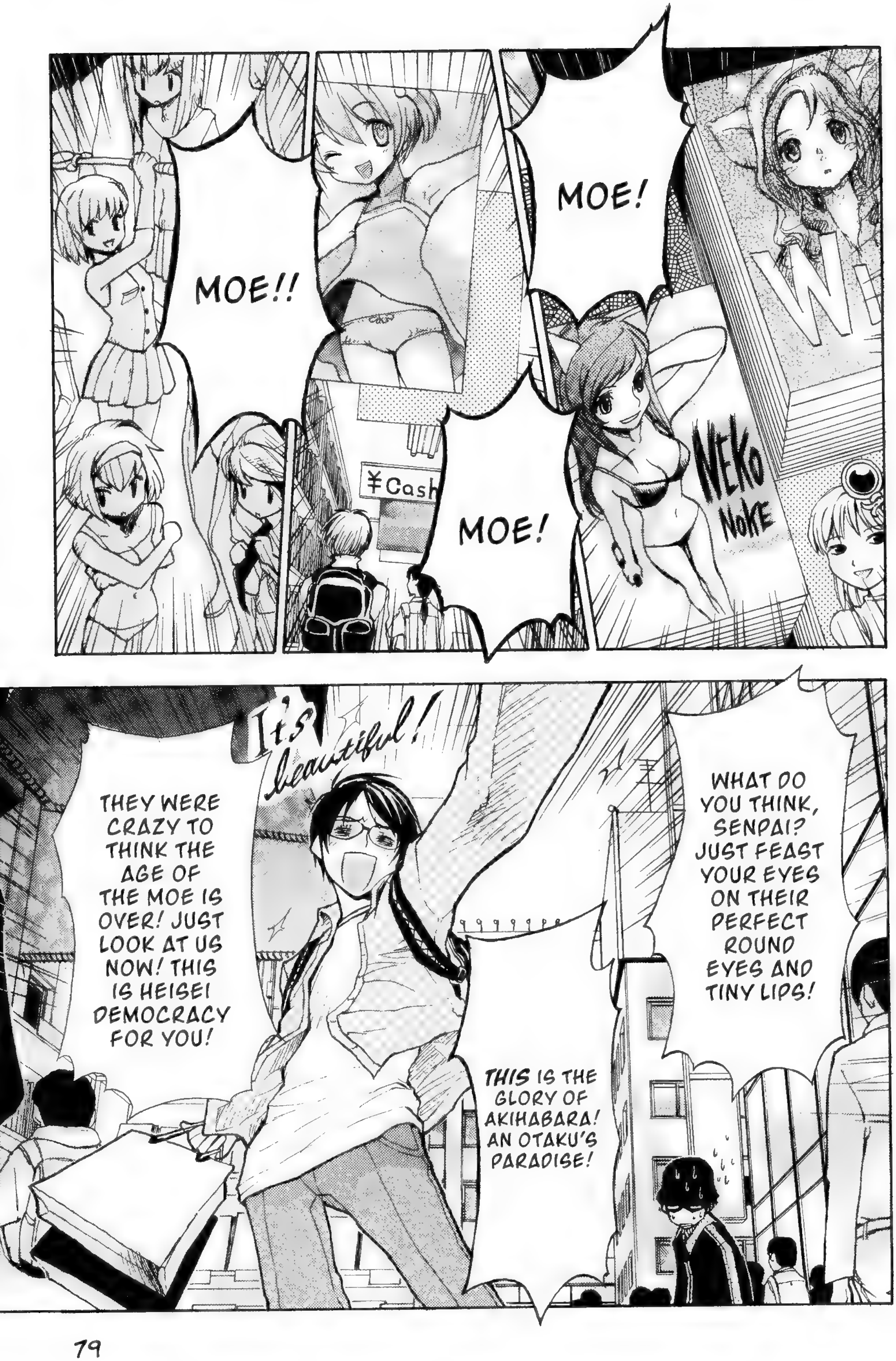

NO, I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THE CARDS.
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE PEOPLE ACROSS THE SEA, ABOUT THE ATOMS THAT BLOCK THE LIGHT.
ABOUT THE FOODS WITH MOLD IN THEM, ABOUT THE PLACES LIKE VIRIDIAN THAT HAVE DISAPPEARED OFF THE MAP.
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY... *US!*
OH, NOT YOUR CRAZY, POETIC TALK AGAIN. WOULD YOU GIVE IT A REST ALREADY?
Huh?
DID YOU KNOW, SATOU-KUN...

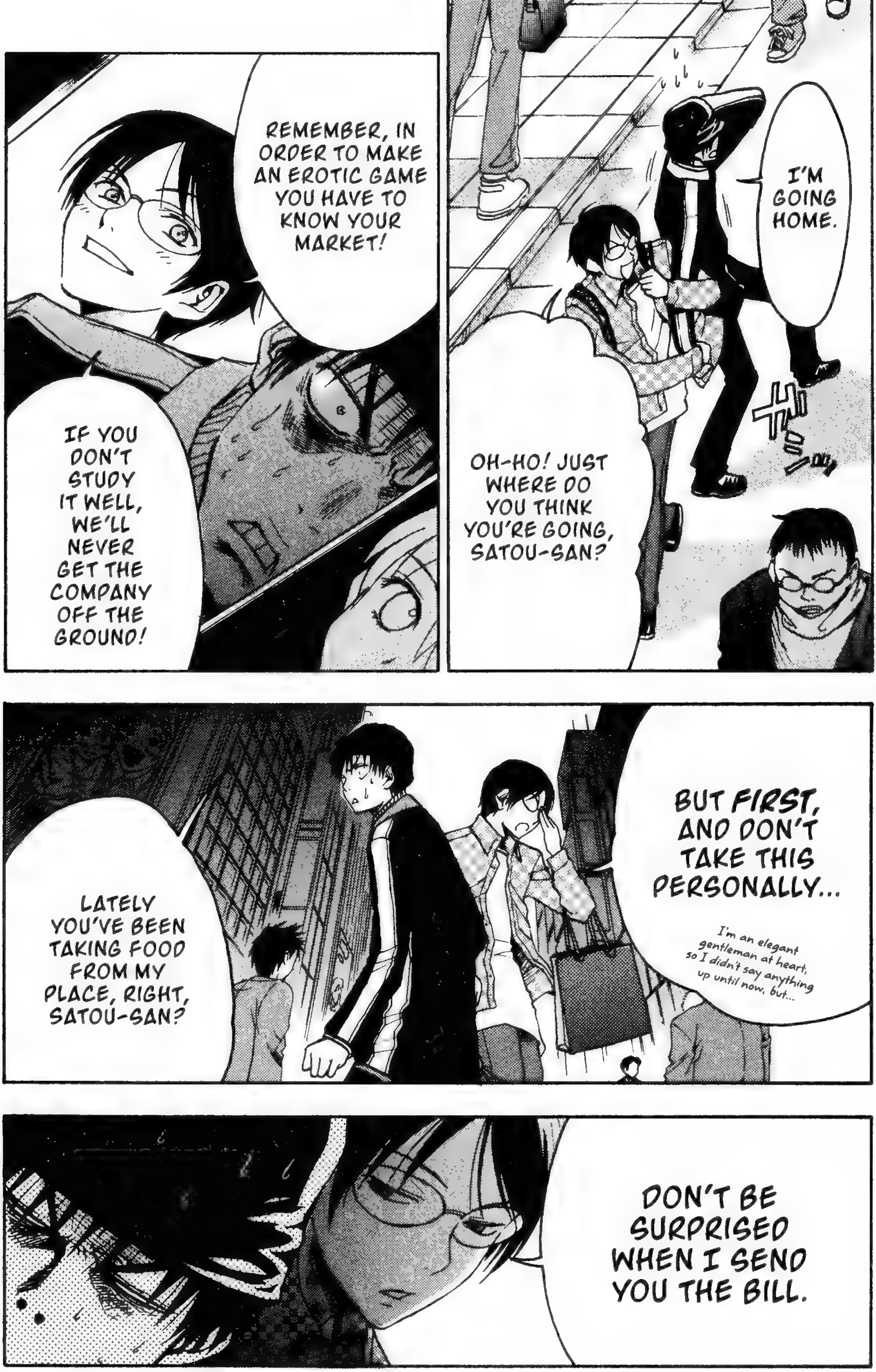

...THERE ARE UNSTOPPABLE CONSPIRACIES IN THE WORLD?
秋葉
あきはば
御茶ノ水
Ochanomizu
*Akihaba

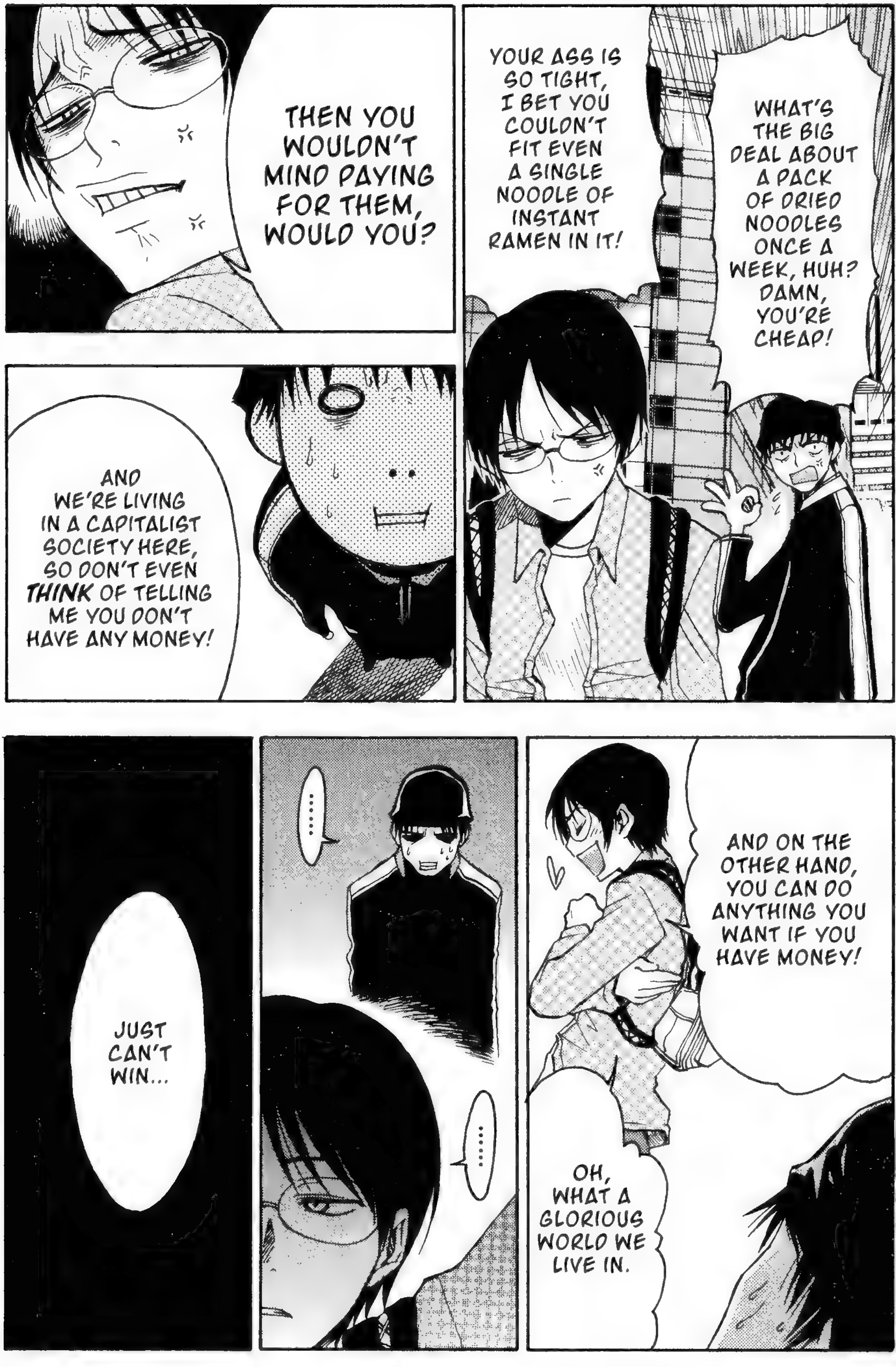
*Check the Glossary on Page 180.

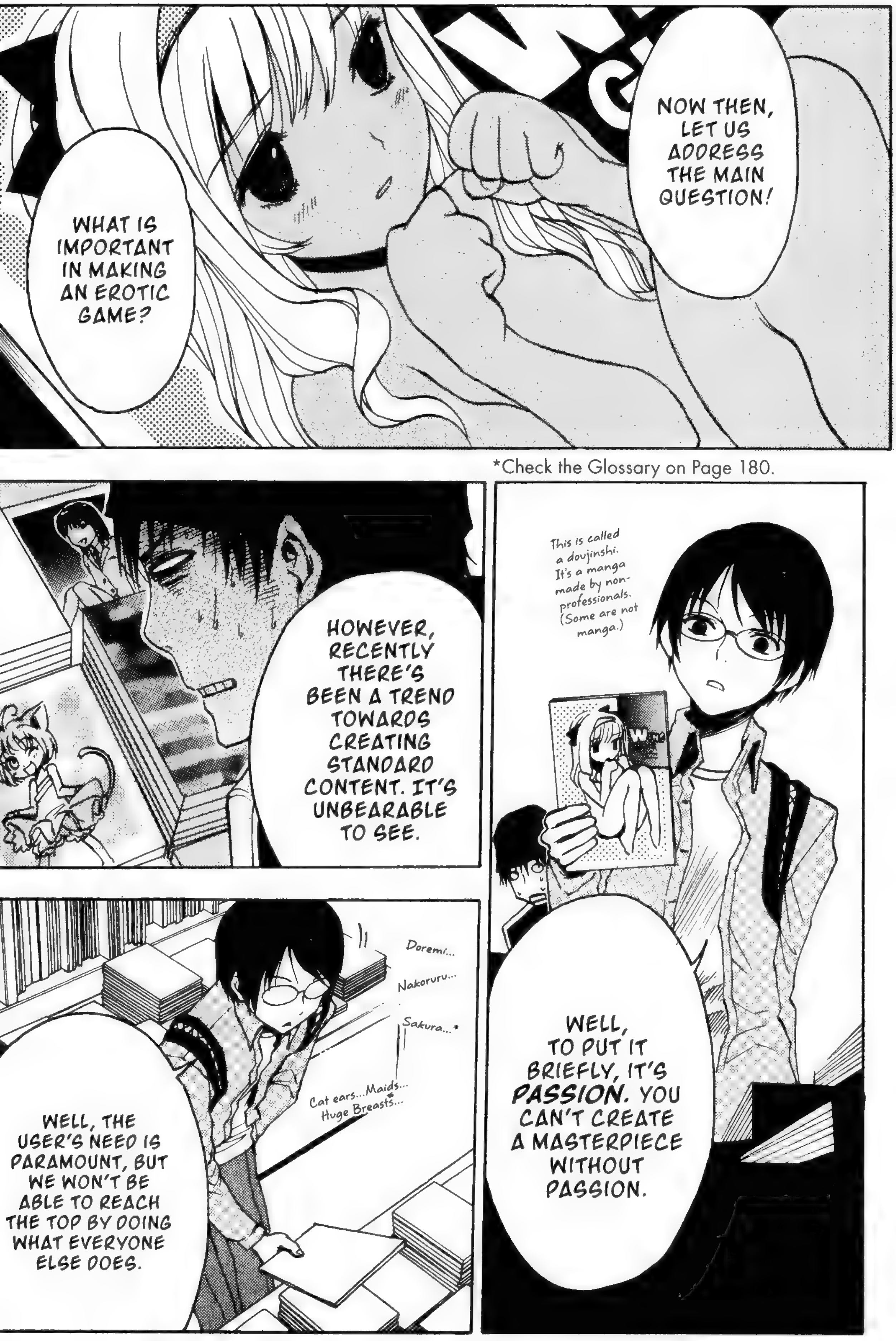

2/13 Now on SALE
My Brother!
Swim-Suit Trio
DVD 1.0% ポ
サービス
DVDソフ
エア5F



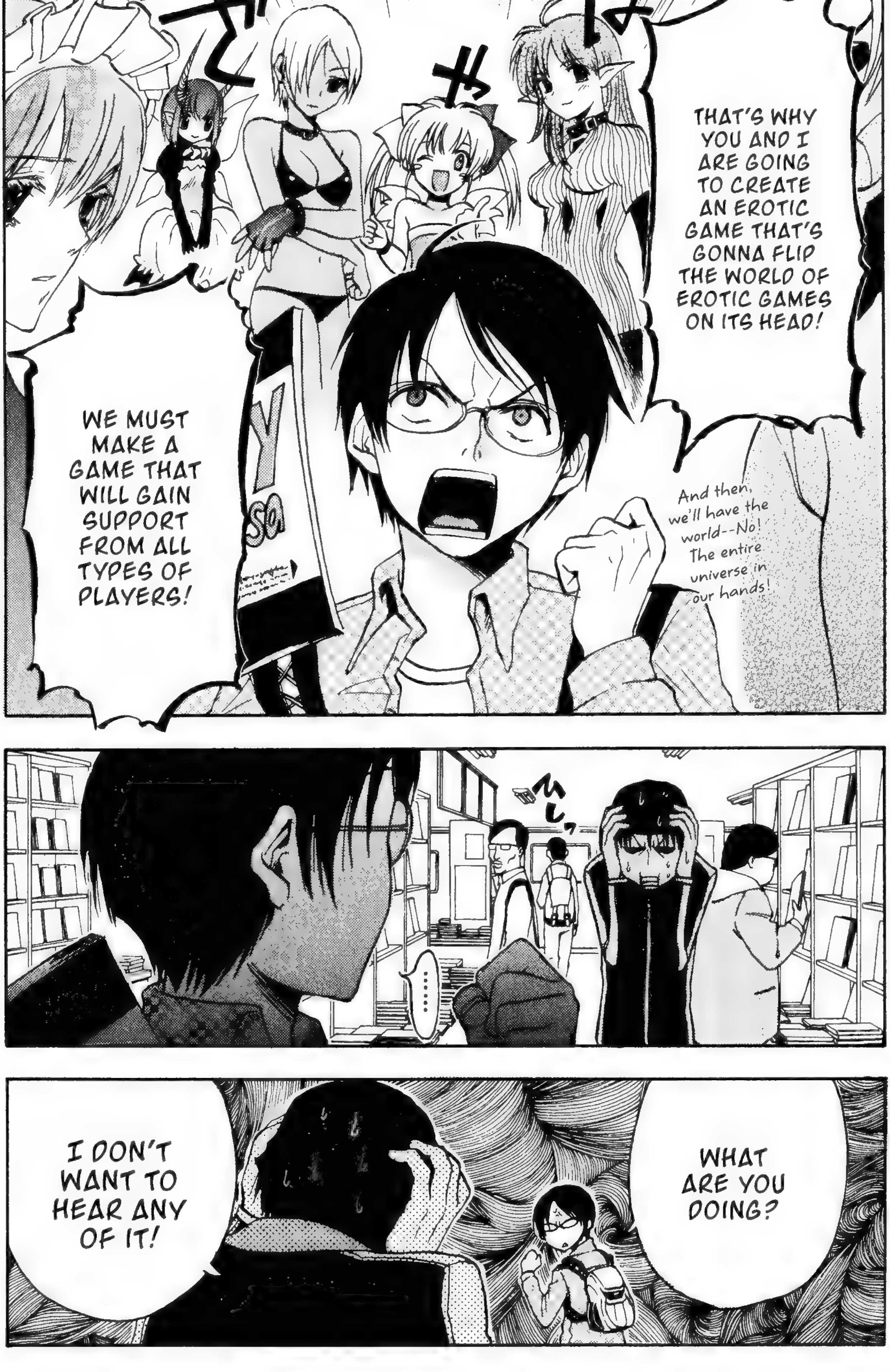

MOE!
NEKO NoKE
W
MOE!
¥Cash
MOE!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK, SENPAI? JUST FEAST YOUR EYES ON THEIR PERFECT ROUND EYES AND TINY LIPS!
It's beautiful!
THEY WERE CRAZY TO THINK THE AGE OF THE MOE IS OVER! JUST LOOK AT US NOW! THIS IS HEISEI DEMOCRACY FOR YOU!
THIS IS THE GLORY OF AKIHABARA! AN OTAKU'S PARADISE!

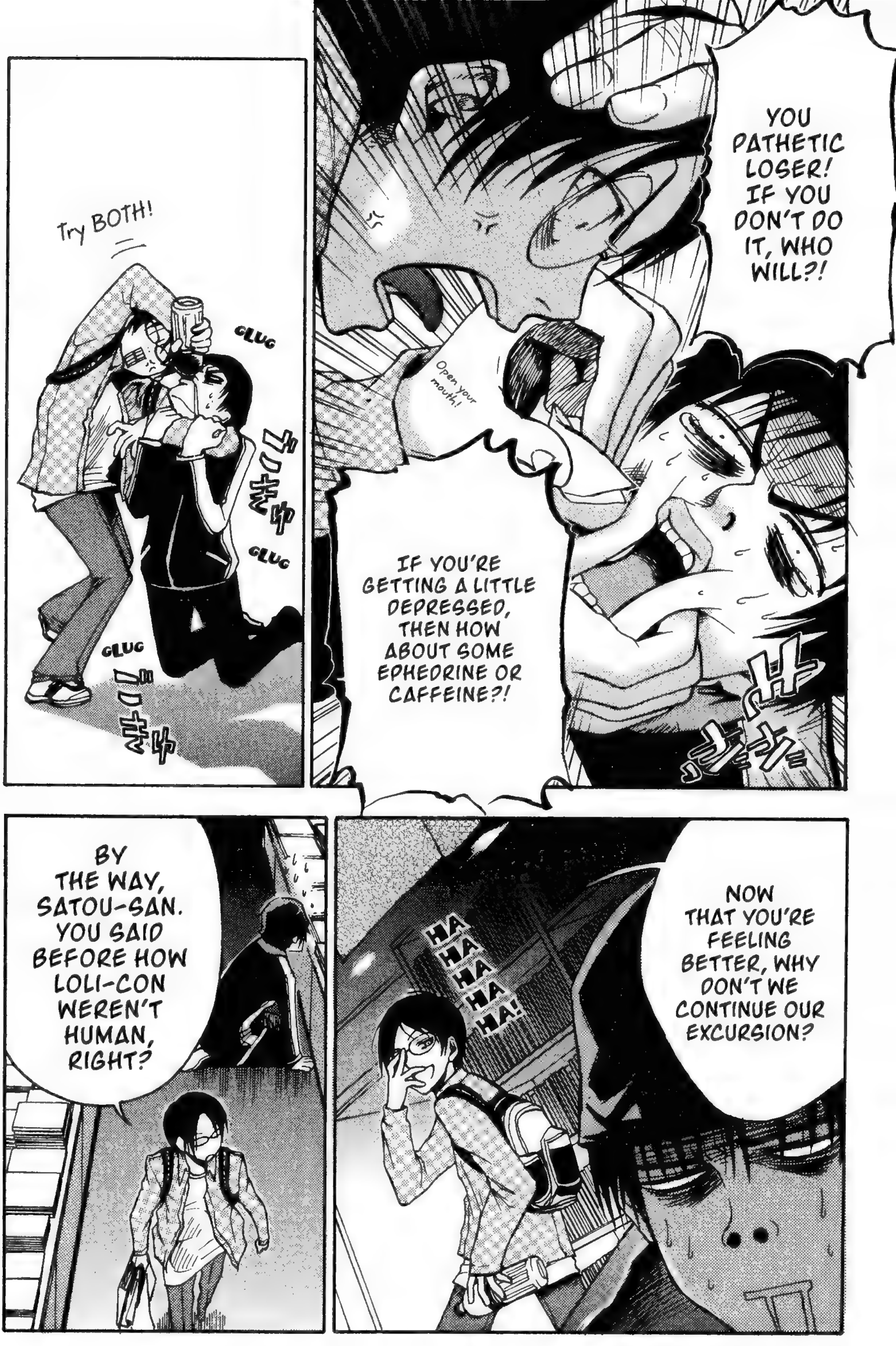

I'M GOING HOME.
OH-HO! JUST WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, SATOU-SAN?
REMEMBER, IN ORDER TO MAKE AN EROTIC GAME YOU HAVE TO KNOW YOUR MARKET!
IF YOU DON'T STUDY IT WELL, WE'LL NEVER GET THE COMPANY OFF THE GROUND!
BUT *FIRST*, AND DON'T TAKE THIS PERSONALLY...
I'm an elegant gentleman at heart, so I didn't say anything up until now, but...
LATELY YOU'VE BEEN TAKING FOOD FROM MY PLACE, RIGHT, SATOU-SAN?
DON'T BE SURPRISED WHEN I SEND YOU THE BILL.

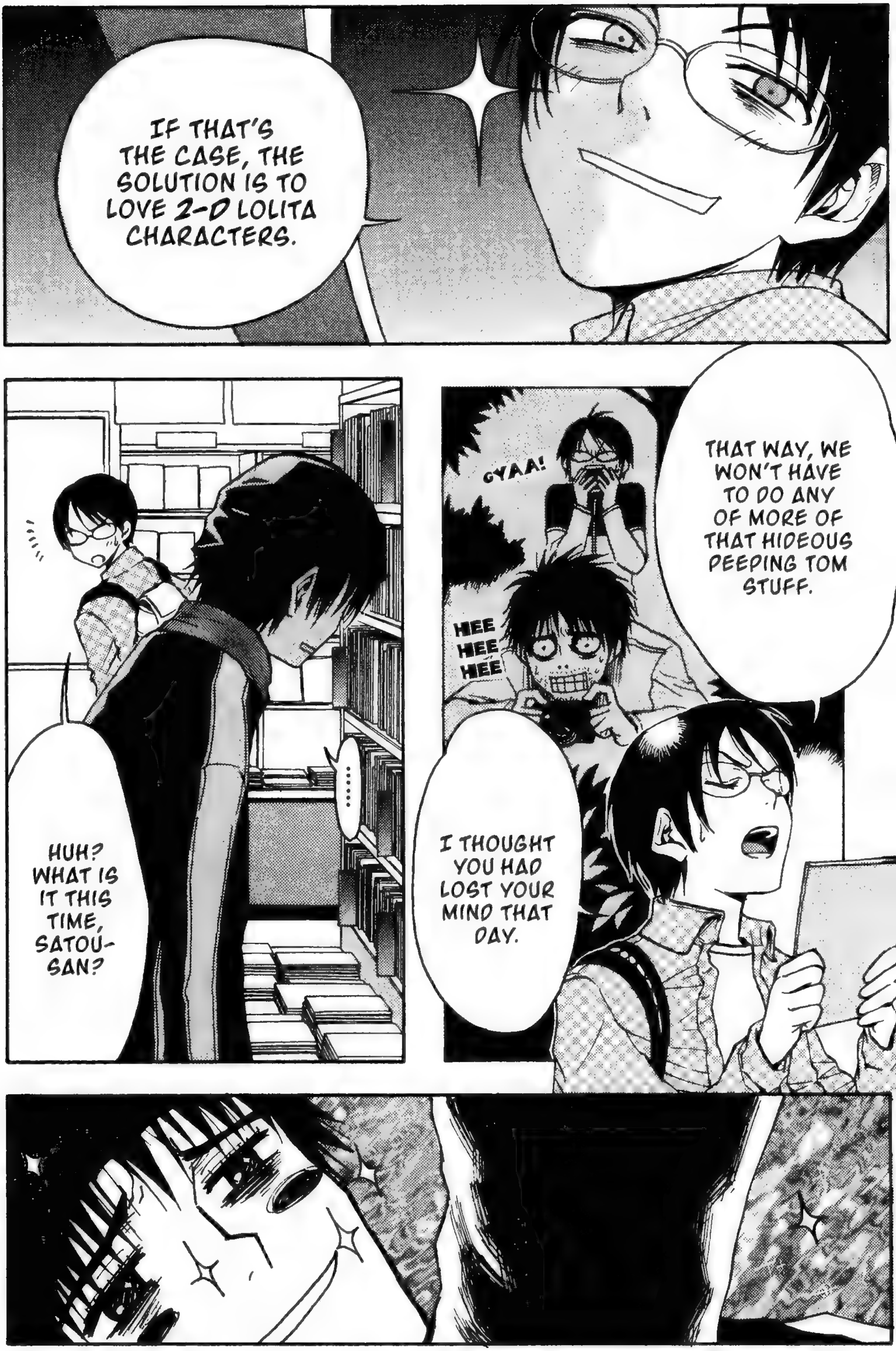

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT A PACK OF DRIED NOODLES ONCE A WEEK, HUH? DAMN, YOU'RE CHEAP!
YOUR ASS IS SO TIGHT, I BET YOU COULDN'T FIT EVEN A SINGLE NOODLE OF INSTANT RAMEN IN IT!
THEN YOU WOULDN'T MIND PAYING FOR THEM, WOULD YOU?
AND WE'RE LIVING IN A CAPITALIST SOCIETY HERE, SO DON'T EVEN *THINK* OF TELLING ME YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY!
AND ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU CAN DO ANYTHING YOU WANT IF YOU HAVE MONEY!
OH, WHAT A GLORIOUS WORLD WE LIVE IN.
......
......
JUST CAN'T WIN...

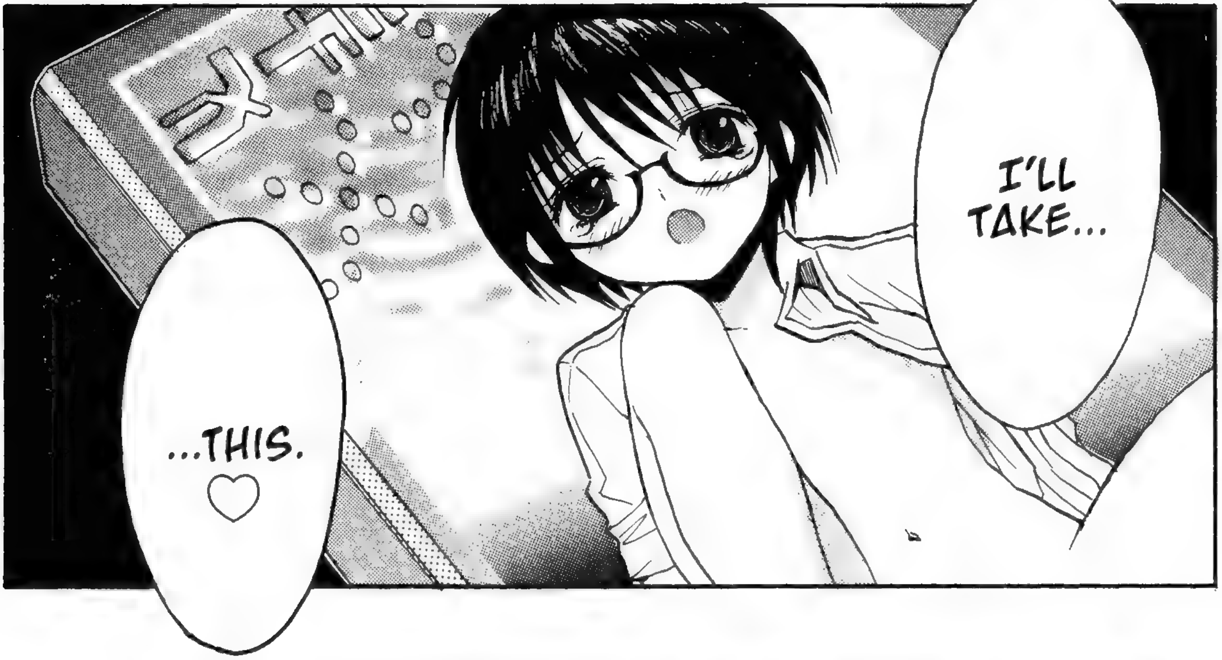

NOW THEN, LET US ADDRESS THE MAIN QUESTION!
WHAT IS IMPORTANT IN MAKING AN EROTIC GAME?
This is called a doujinshi. It's a manga made by non-professionals. (Some are not manga.)
WELL, TO PUT IT BRIEFLY, IT'S PASSION. YOU CAN'T CREATE A MASTERPIECE WITHOUT PASSION.
HOWEVER, RECENTLY THERE'S BEEN A TREND TOWARDS CREATING STANDARD CONTENT. IT'S UNBEARABLE TO SEE.
Doremi...
Nakoruru...
Sakura...*
Cat ears...Maids...Huge Breasts...
WELL, THE USER'S NEED IS PARAMOUNT, BUT WE WON'T BE ABLE TO REACH THE TOP BY DOING WHAT EVERYONE ELSE DOES.

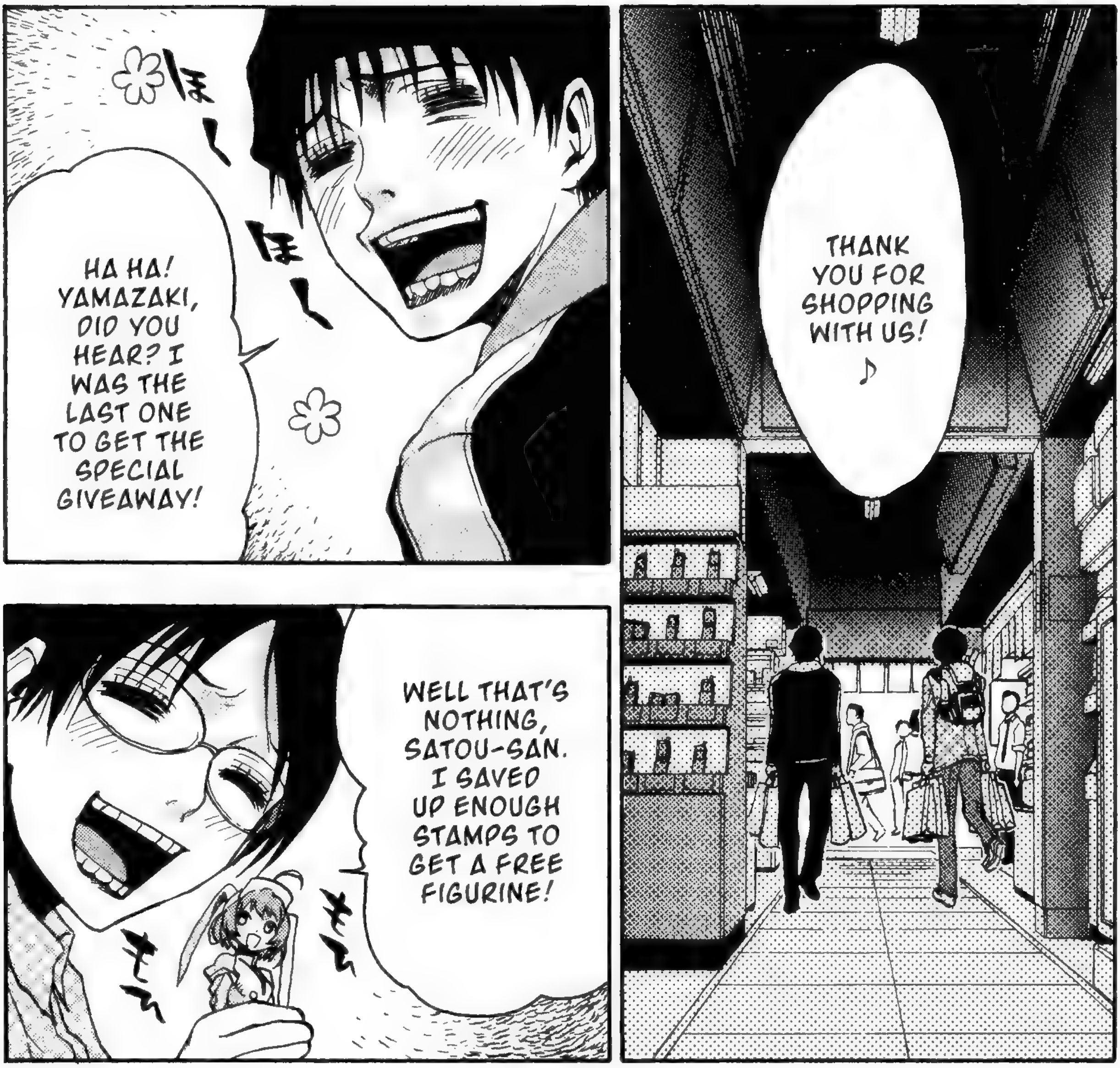
*Check the Glossary on Page 180.

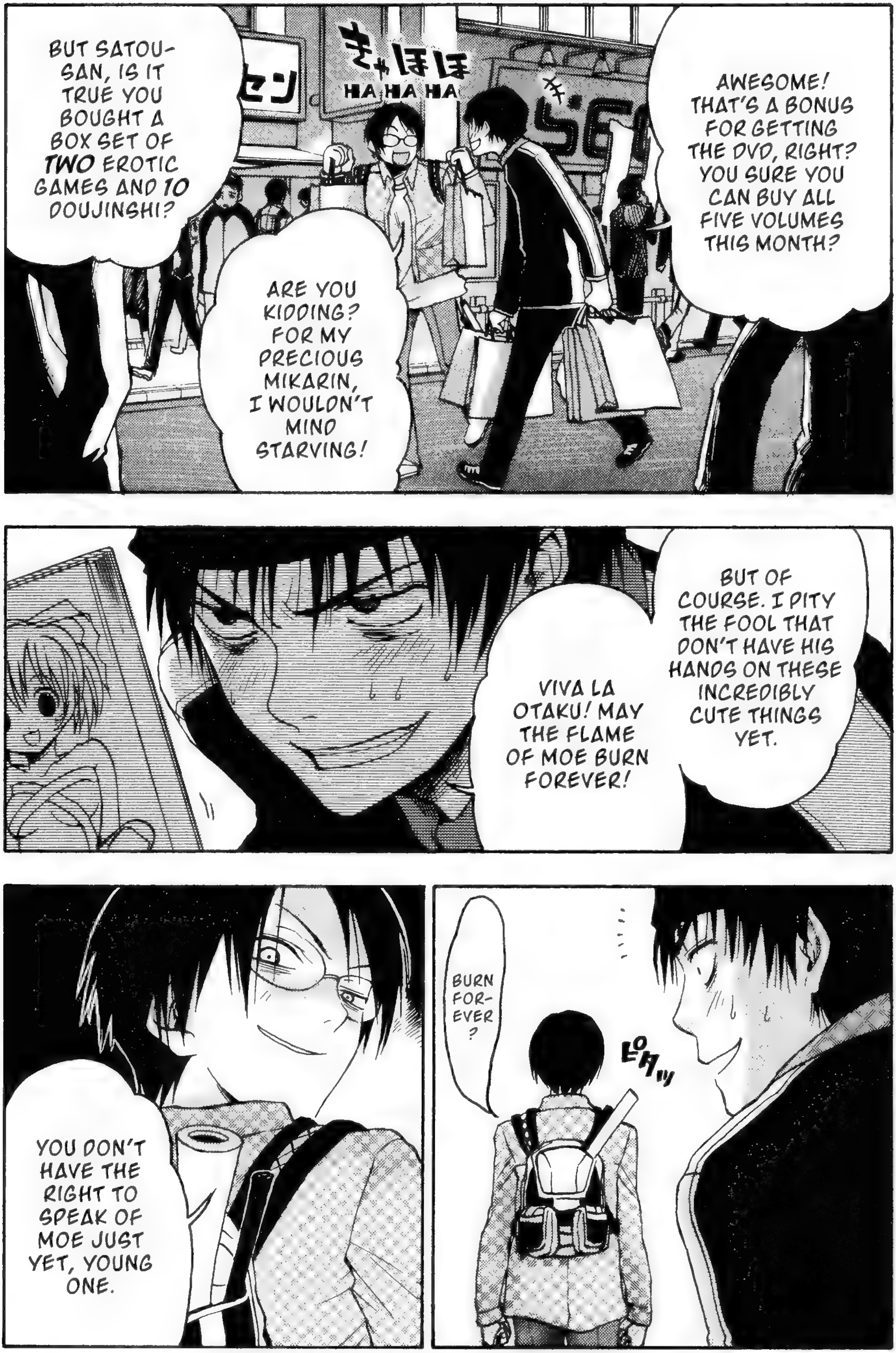

THAT'S WHY YOU AND I ARE GOING TO CREATE AN EROTIC GAME THAT'S GONNA FLIP THE WORLD OF EROTIC GAMES ON ITS HEAD!
WE MUST MAKE A GAME THAT WILL GAIN SUPPORT FROM ALL TYPES OF PLAYERS!
And then, we'll have the world--No! The entire universe in our hands!
......
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY OF IT!

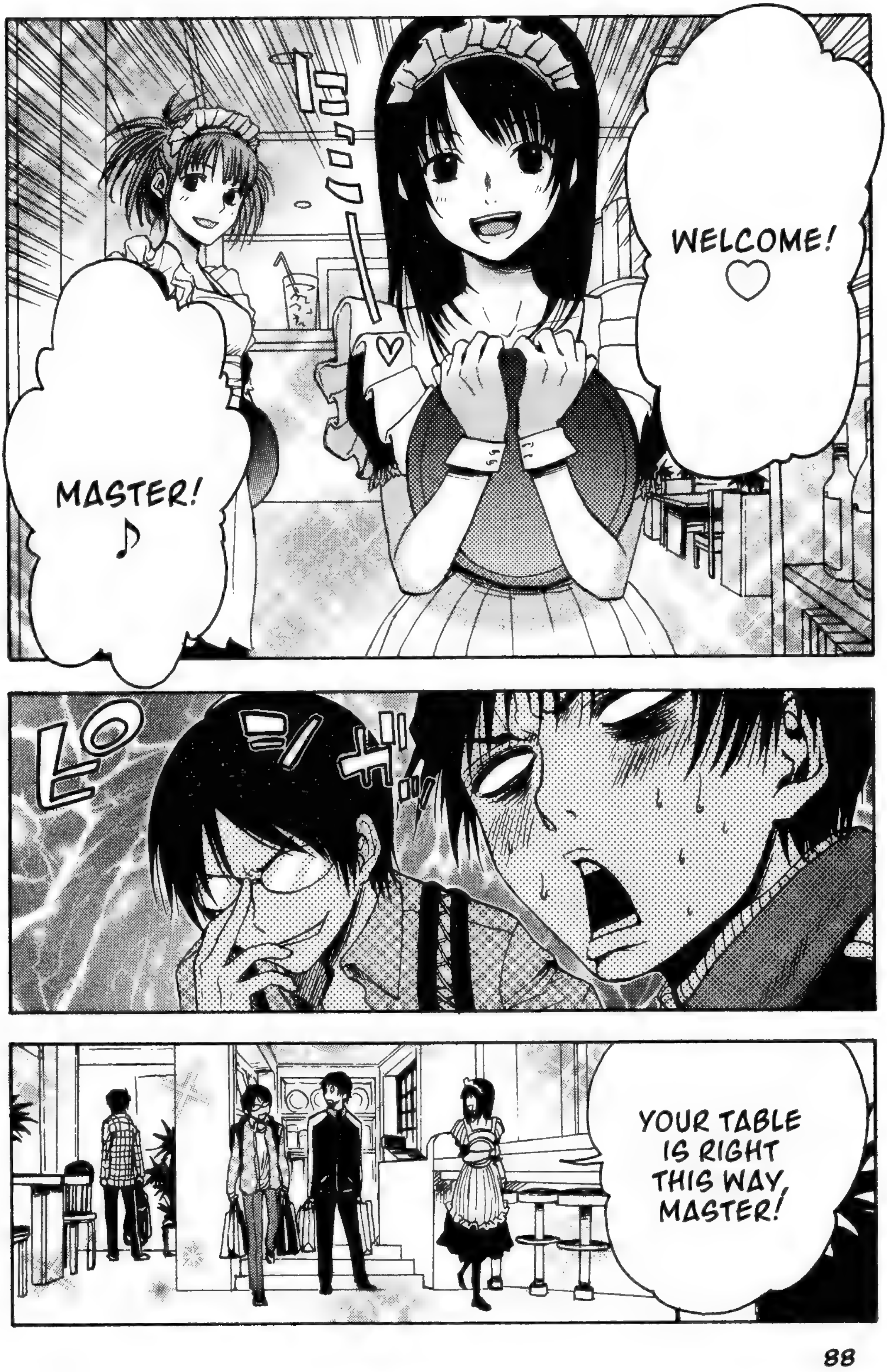

YOU PATHETIC LOSER! IF YOU DON'T DO IT, WHO WILL?!
Open your mouth!
IF YOU'RE GETTING A LITTLE DEPRESSED, THEN HOW ABOUT SOME EPHEDRINE OR CAFFEINE?!
Try BOTH!
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
NOW THAT YOU'RE FEELING BETTER, WHY DON'T WE CONTINUE OUR EXCURSION?
HA HA HA HA HA!
BY THE WAY, SATOU-SAN. YOU SAID BEFORE HOW LOLI-CON WEREN'T HUMAN, RIGHT?

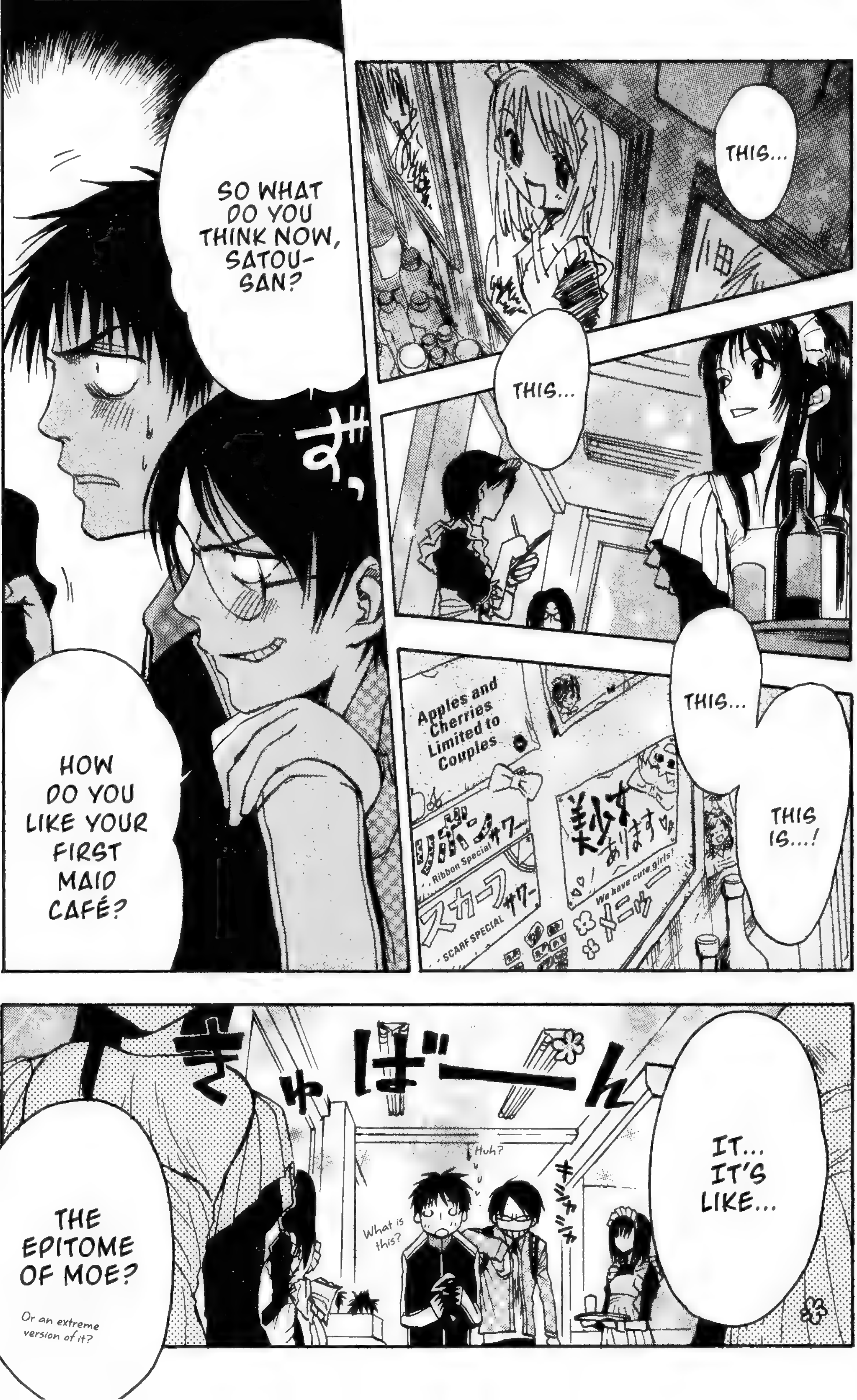

IF THAT'S THE CASE, THE SOLUTION IS TO LOVE 2-D LOLITA CHARACTERS.
THAT WAY, WE WON'T HAVE TO DO ANY OF MORE OF THAT HIDEOUS PEEPING TOM STUFF.
GYAA!
HEE HEE HEE
I THOUGHT YOU HAD LOST YOUR MIND THAT DAY.
......
HUH? WHAT IS IT THIS TIME, SATOU-SAN?

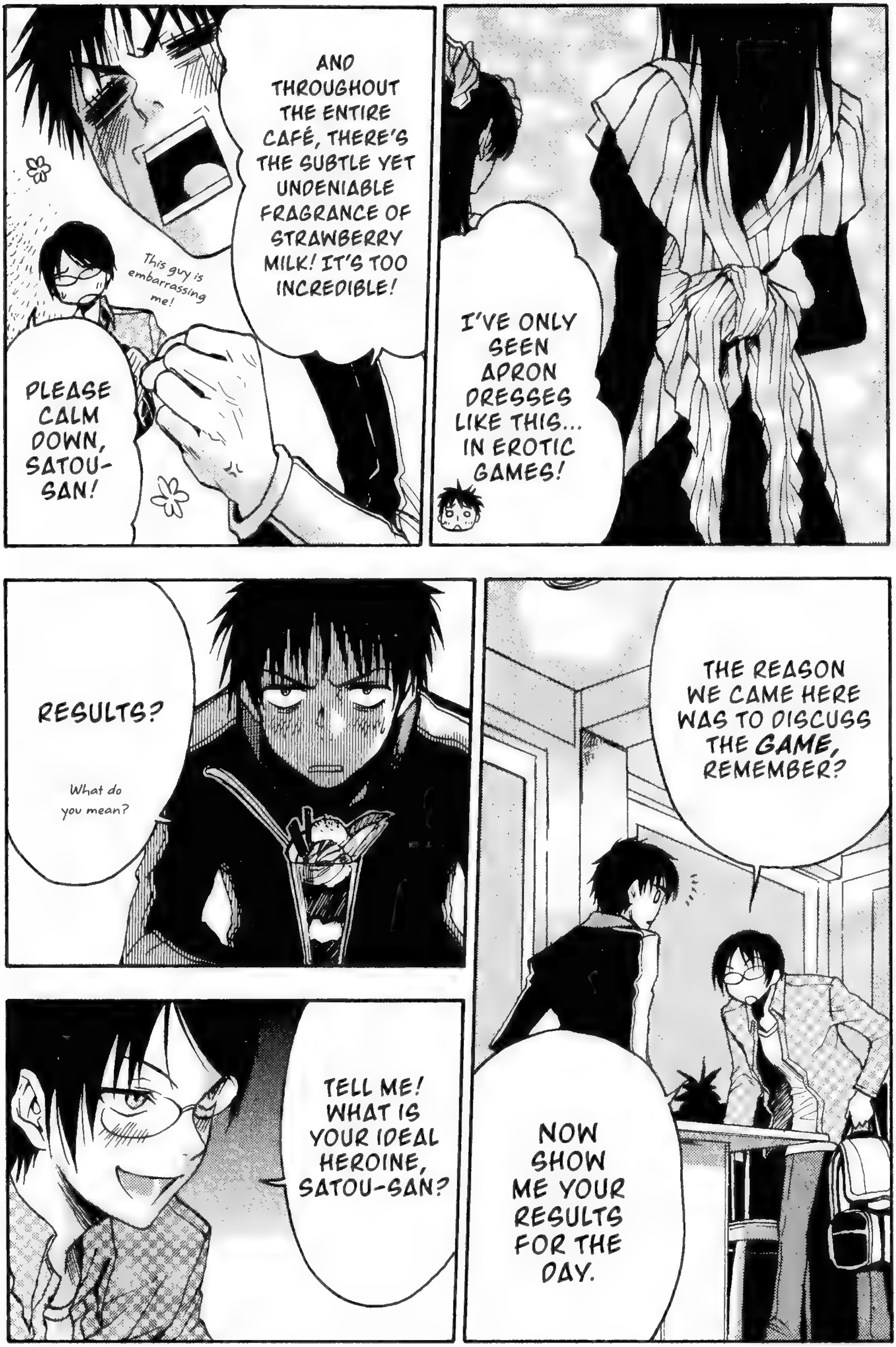

I'LL TAKE...
...THIS. ♡

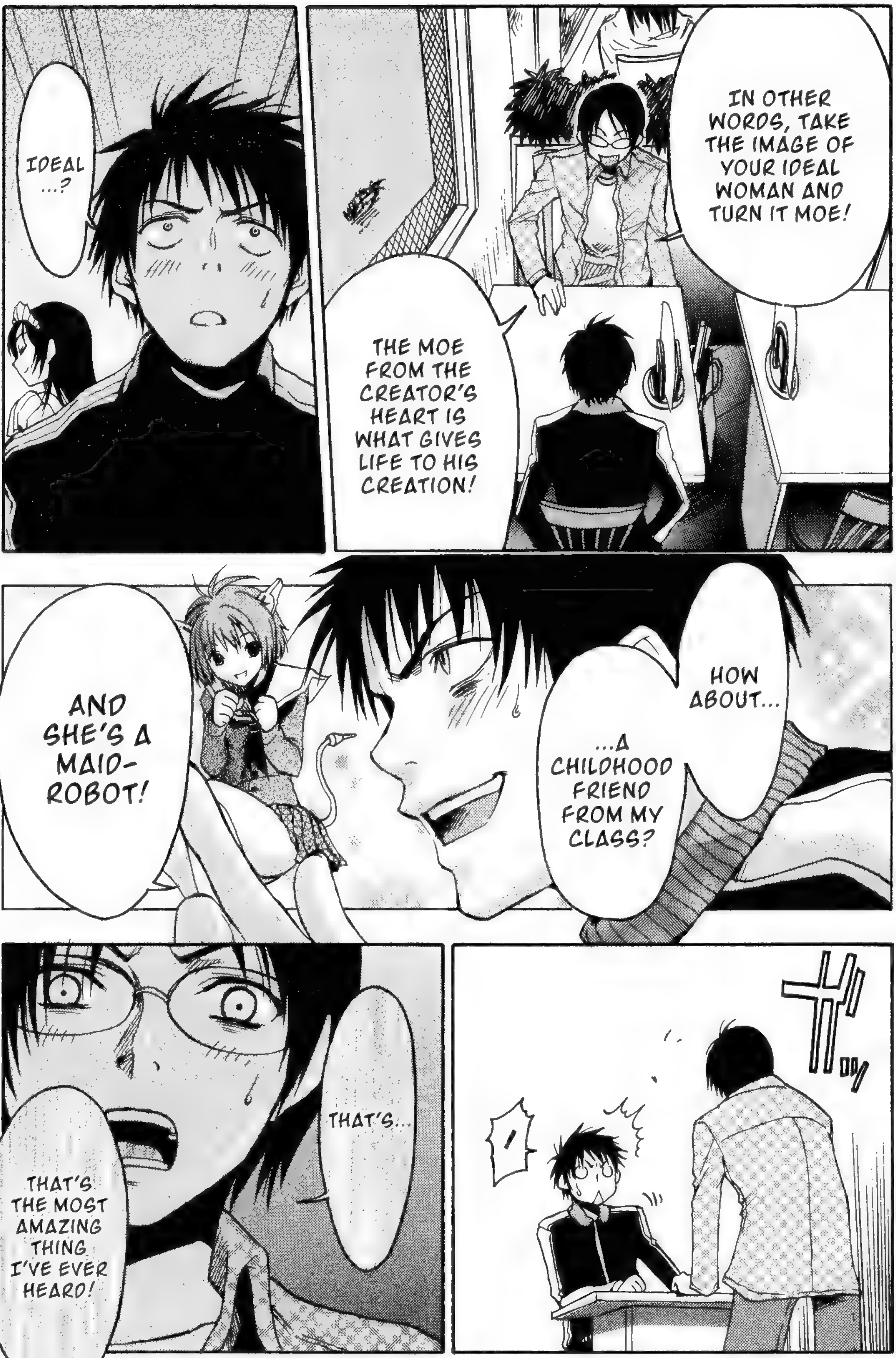

THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING WITH US! ♪
ほ〜 ほ〜
HA HA! YAMAZAKI, DID YOU HEAR? I WAS THE LAST ONE TO GET THE SPECIAL GIVEAWAY!
WELL THAT'S NOTHING, SATOU-SAN. I SAVED UP ENOUGH STAMPS TO GET A FREE FIGURINE!

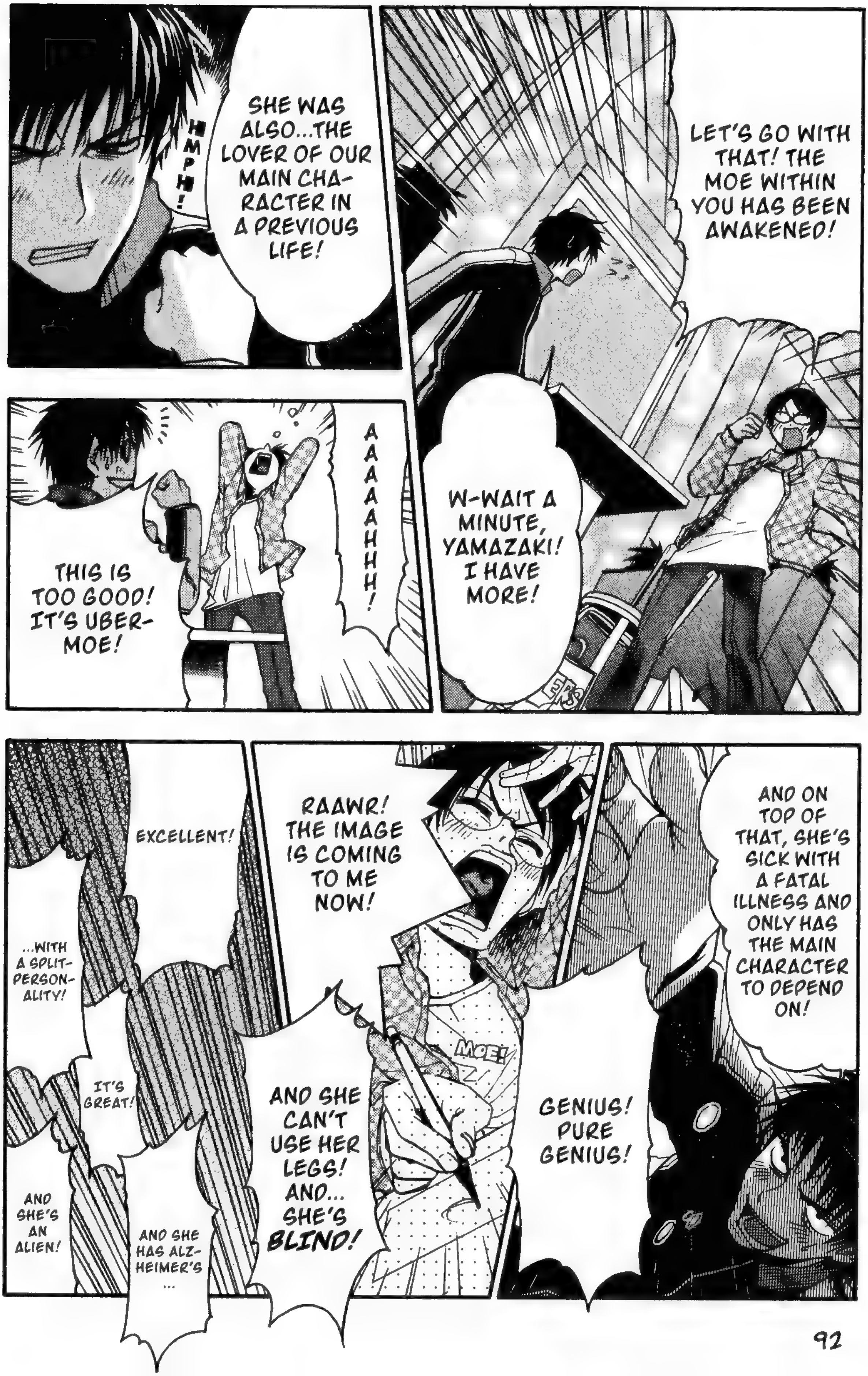

きゃほほ
HA HA HA
キ
AWESOME! THAT'S A BONUS FOR GETTING THE DVD, RIGHT? YOU SURE YOU CAN BUY ALL FIVE VOLUMES THIS MONTH?
ARE YOU KIDDING? FOR MY PRECIOUS MIKARIN, I WOULDN'T MIND STARVING!
BUT SATOU-SAN, IS IT TRUE YOU BOUGHT A BOX SET OF **TWO** EROTIC GAMES AND **10** DOUJINSHI?
BUT OF COURSE. I PITY THE FOOL THAT DON'T HAVE HIS HANDS ON THESE INCREDIBLY CUTE THINGS YET.
VIVA LA OTAKU! MAY THE FLAME OF MOE BURN FOREVER!
...
ピクッ
BURN FOREVER?
YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO SPEAK OF MOE JUST YET, YOUNG ONE.

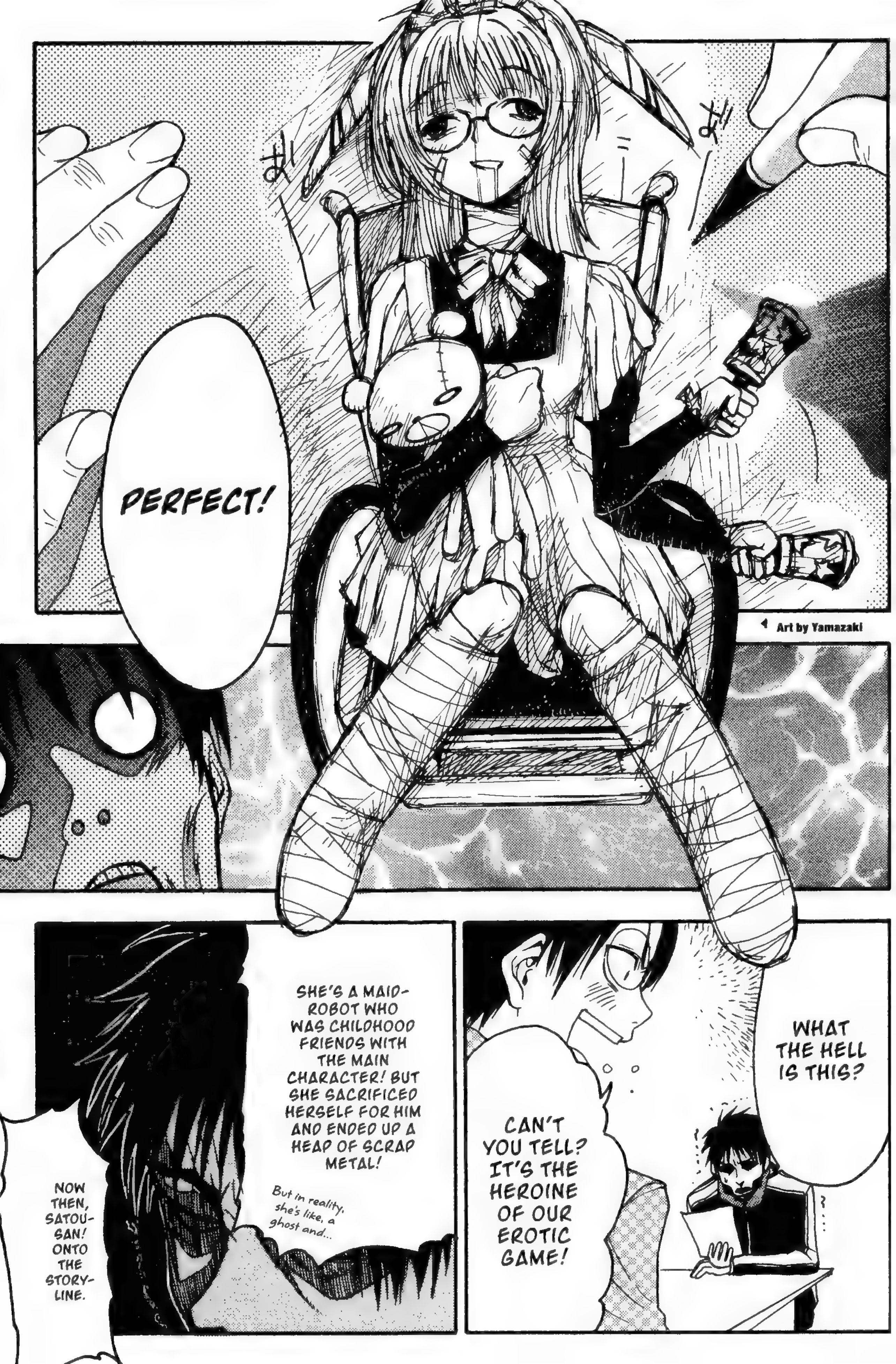

WELCOME! ♡
MASTER! ♪
YOUR TABLE IS RIGHT THIS WAY, MASTER!


THIS...
THIS...
THIS...
Apples and Cherries Limited to Couples
リボンサワー
Ribbon Special
スカーフサワー
SCARF SPECIAL
美少女あります♡
We have cute girls!
メニュー
THIS IS...!
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK NOW, SATOU-SAN?
ず
HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR FIRST MAID CAFÉ?
IT... IT'S LIKE...
きゅばーん
キシャシャ
Huh?
What is this?
THE EPITOME OF MOE?
Or an extreme version of it?

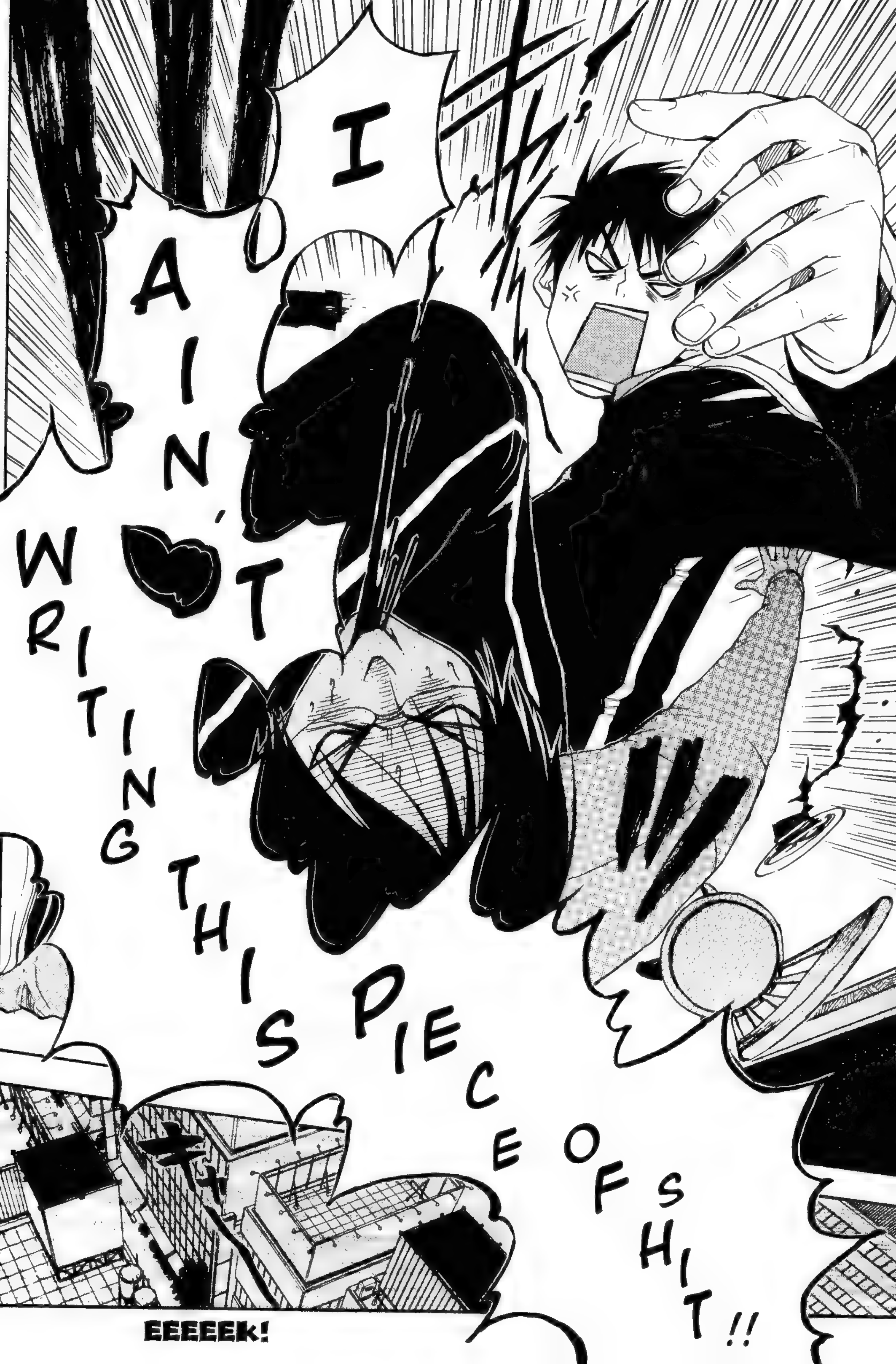

I'VE ONLY SEEN APRON DRESSES LIKE THIS... IN EROTIC GAMES!
AND THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE CAFÉ, THERE'S THE SUBTLE YET UNDENIABLE FRAGRANCE OF STRAWBERRY MILK! IT'S TOO INCREDIBLE!
This guy is embarrassing me!
PLEASE CALM DOWN, SATOU-SAN!
THE REASON WE CAME HERE WAS TO DISCUSS THE *GAME*, REMEMBER?
NOW SHOW ME YOUR RESULTS FOR THE DAY.
RESULTS?
What do you mean?
TELL ME! WHAT IS YOUR IDEAL HEROINE, SATOU-SAN?

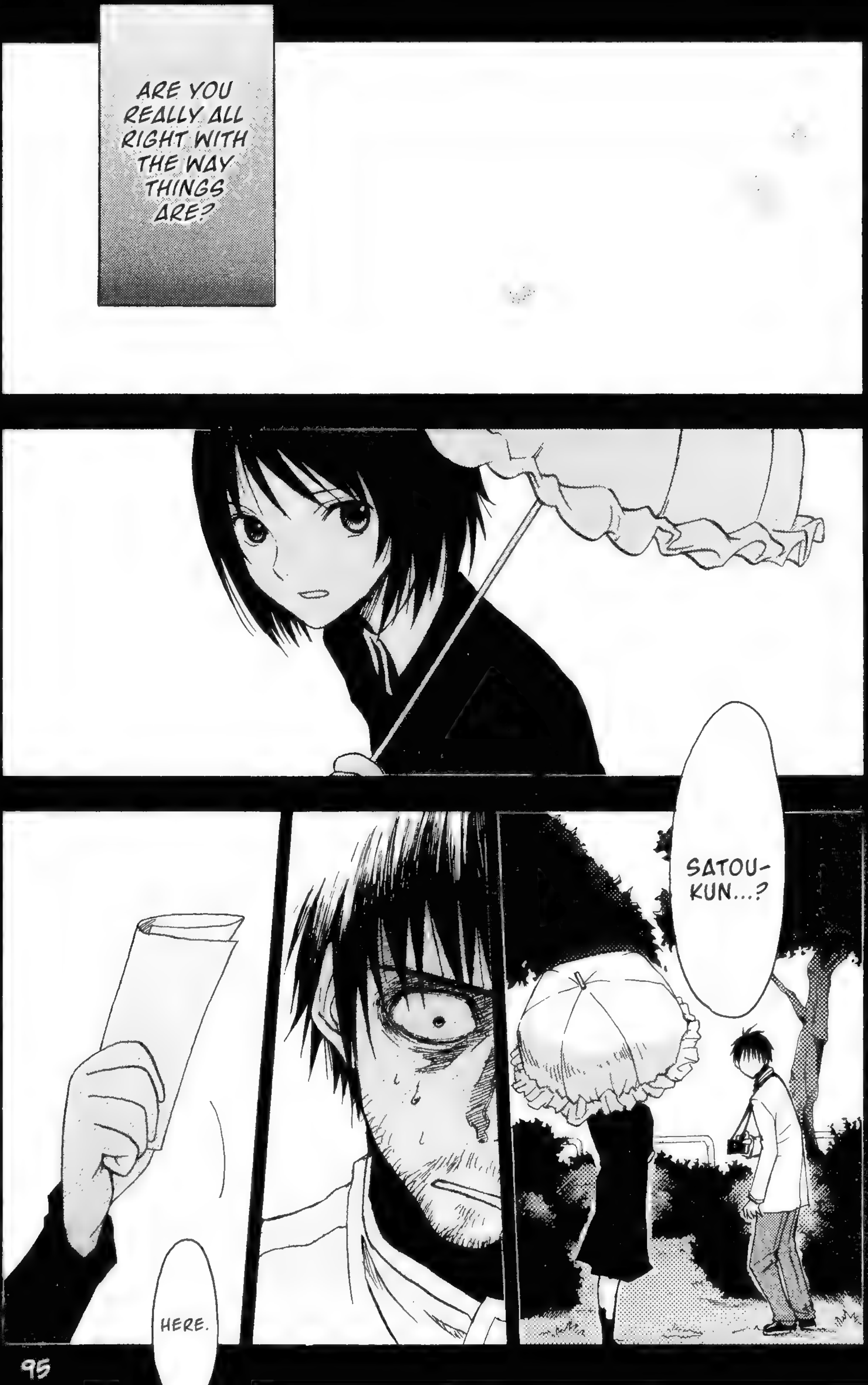

IN OTHER WORDS, TAKE THE IMAGE OF YOUR IDEAL WOMAN AND TURN IT MOE!
THE MOE FROM THE CREATOR'S HEART IS WHAT GIVES LIFE TO HIS CREATION!
IDEAL ...?
HOW ABOUT...
...A CHILDHOOD FRIEND FROM MY CLASS?
AND SHE'S A MAID-ROBOT!
ガッ
!
THAT'S...
THAT'S THE MOST AMAZING THING I'VE EVER HEARD!

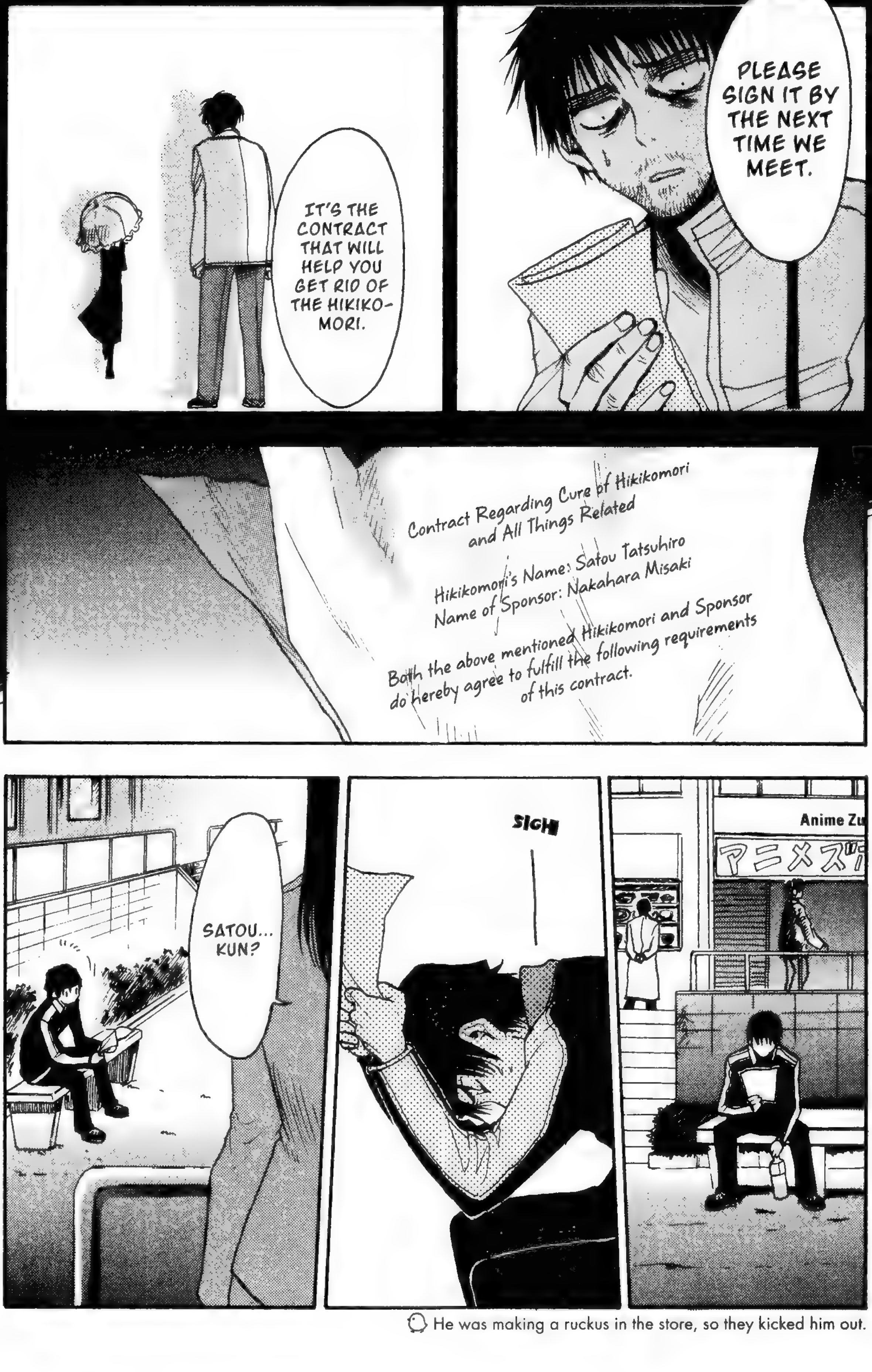

HMPH!
SHE WAS ALSO...THE LOVER OF OUR MAIN CHARACTER IN A PREVIOUS LIFE!
LET'S GO WITH THAT! THE MOE WITHIN YOU HAS BEEN AWAKENED!
THIS IS TOO GOOD! IT'S UBER-MOE!
AAAAAAHHHH!
W-WAIT A MINUTE, YAMAZAKI! I HAVE MORE!
ERS
EXCELLENT!
...WITH A SPLIT-PERSONALITY!
IT'S GREAT!
AND SHE'S AN ALIEN!
AND SHE HAS ALZHEIMER'S ...
RAAWR! THE IMAGE IS COMING TO ME NOW!
AND SHE CAN'T USE HER LEGS! AND... SHE'S BLIND!
MOE!
AND ON TOP OF THAT, SHE'S SICK WITH A FATAL ILLNESS AND ONLY HAS THE MAIN CHARACTER TO DEPEND ON!
GENIUS! PURE GENIUS!


PERFECT!
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
CAN'T YOU TELL? IT'S THE HEROINE OF OUR EROTIC GAME!
SHE'S A MAID-ROBOT WHO WAS CHILDHOOD FRIENDS WITH THE MAIN CHARACTER! BUT SHE SACRIFICED HERSELF FOR HIM AND ENDED UP A HEAP OF SCRAP METAL!
But in reality, she's like, a ghost and...
NOW THEN, SATOU-SAN! ONTO THE STORY-LINE.

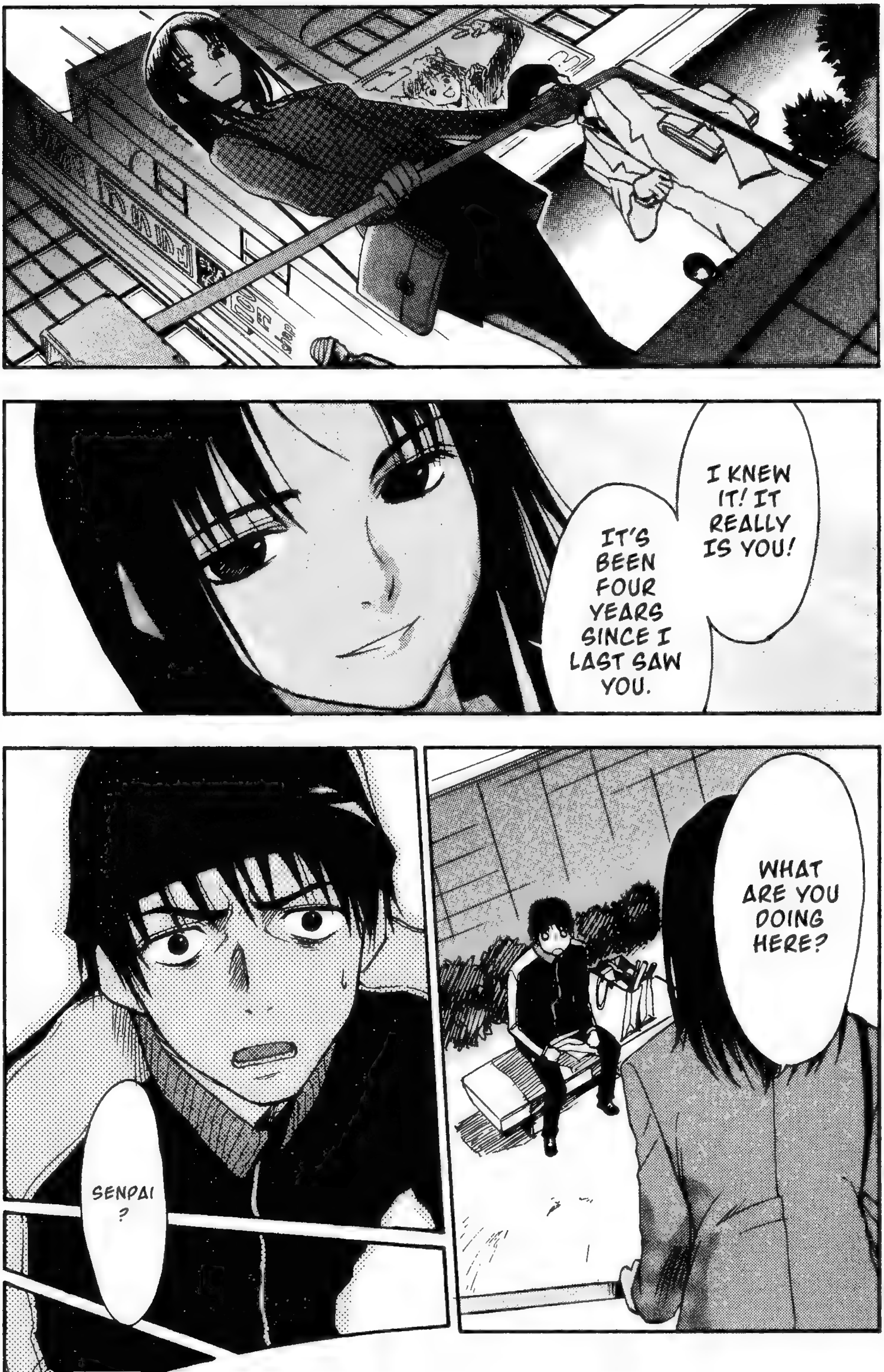
Art by Yamazaki

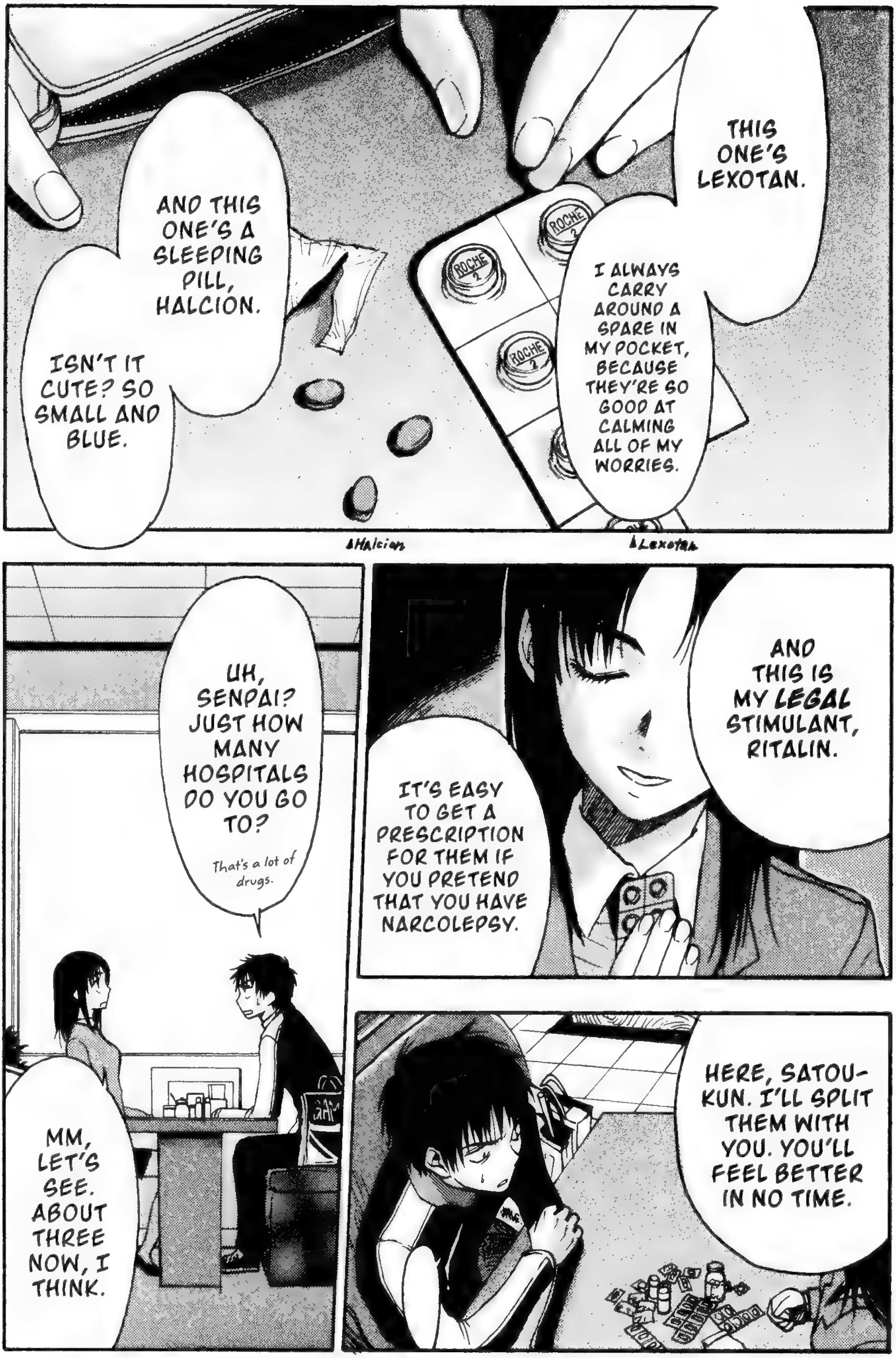

I AIN'T WRITING THIS PIECE OF SHIT!!
EEEEEK!

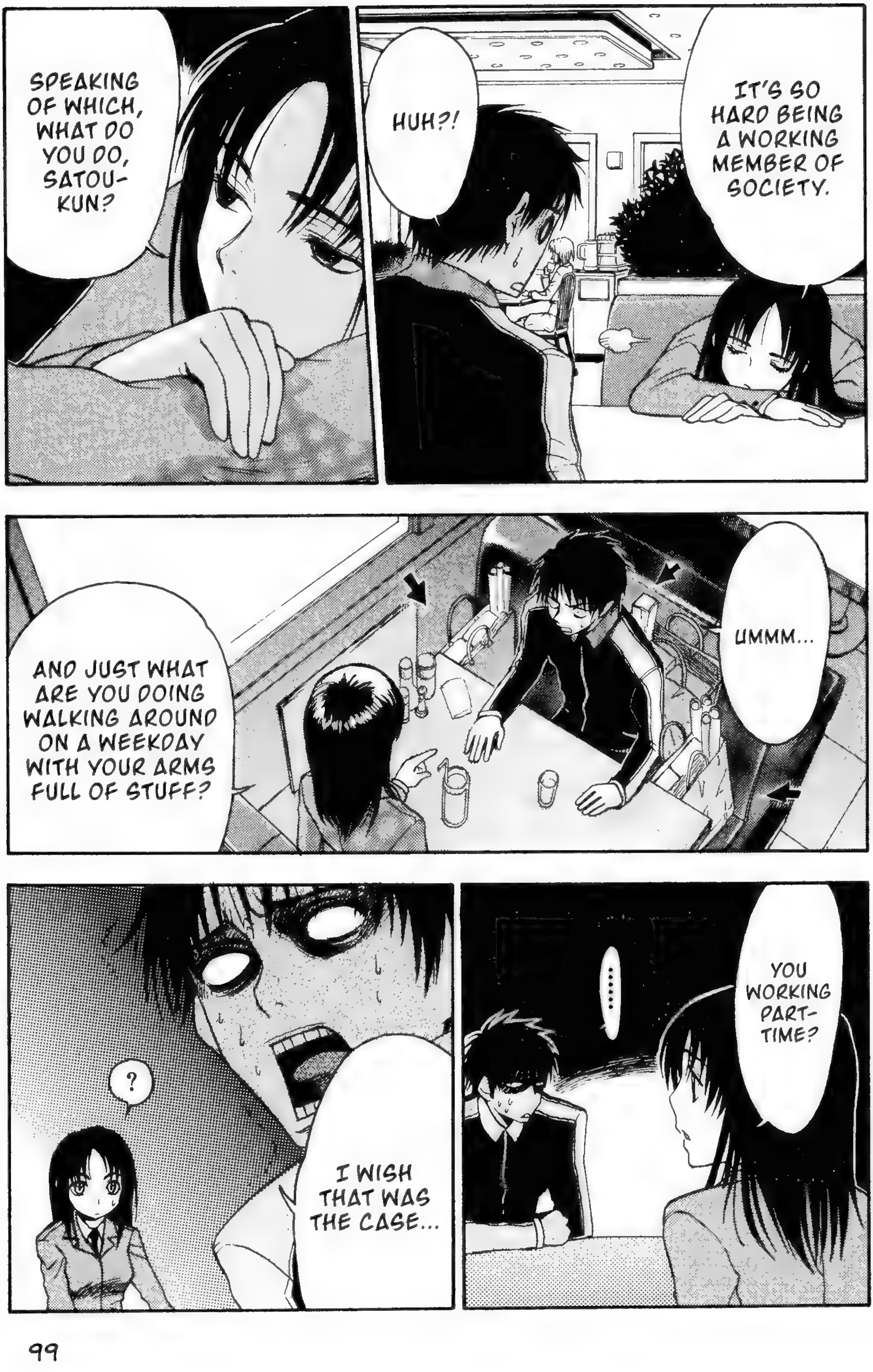

ARE YOU REALLY ALL RIGHT WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE?
SATOU-KUN...?
HERE.

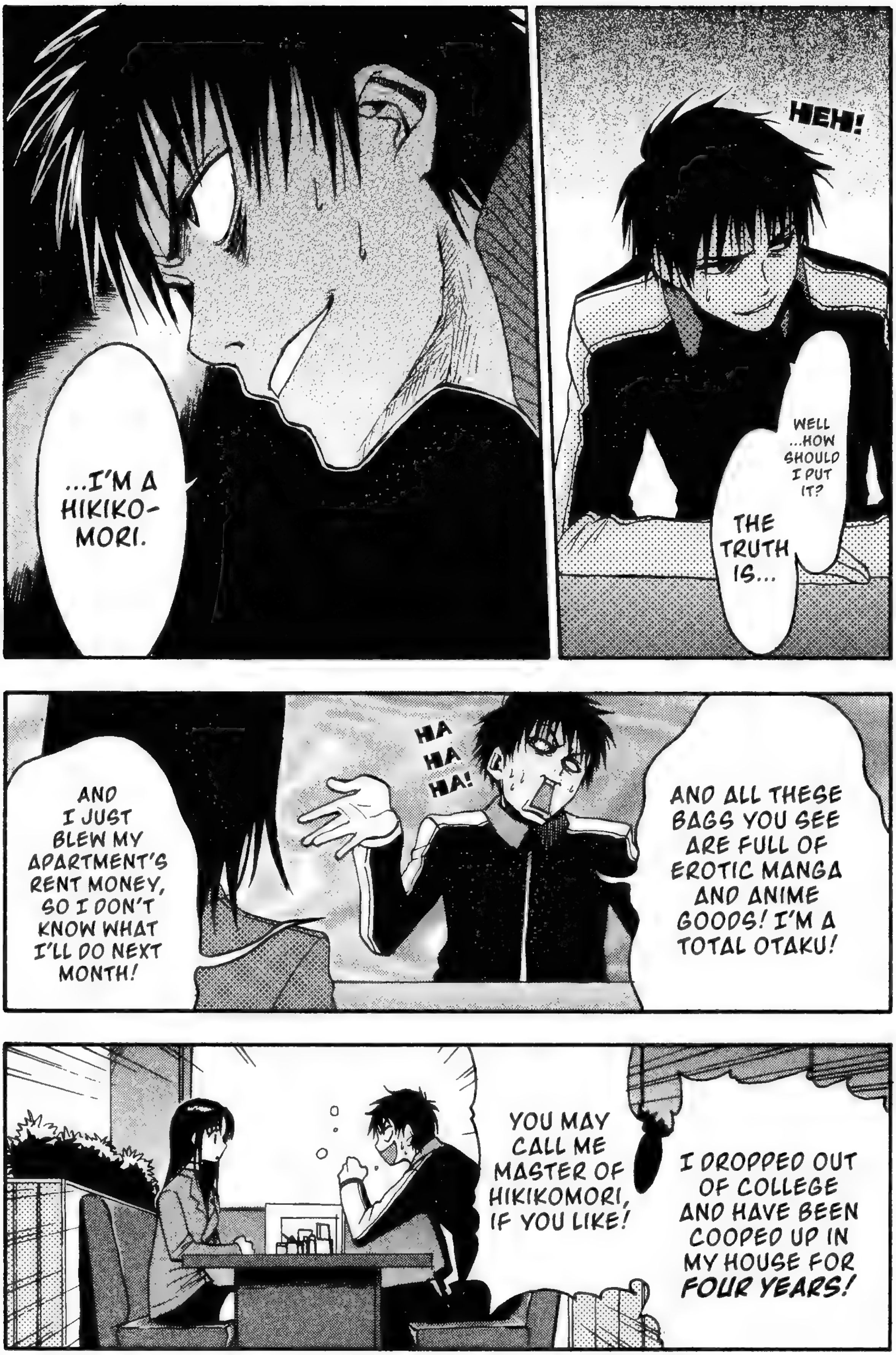

PLEASE SIGN IT BY THE NEXT TIME WE MEET.
IT'S THE CONTRACT THAT WILL HELP YOU GET RID OF THE HIKIKOMORI.
Contract Regarding Cure of Hikikomori and All Things Related
Hikikomori's Name: Satou Tatsuhiro
Name of Sponsor: Nakahara Misaki
Both the above mentioned Hikikomori and Sponsor do hereby agree to fulfill the following requirements of this contract.
Anime Zu
アニメズ
SIGH
SATOU... KUN?

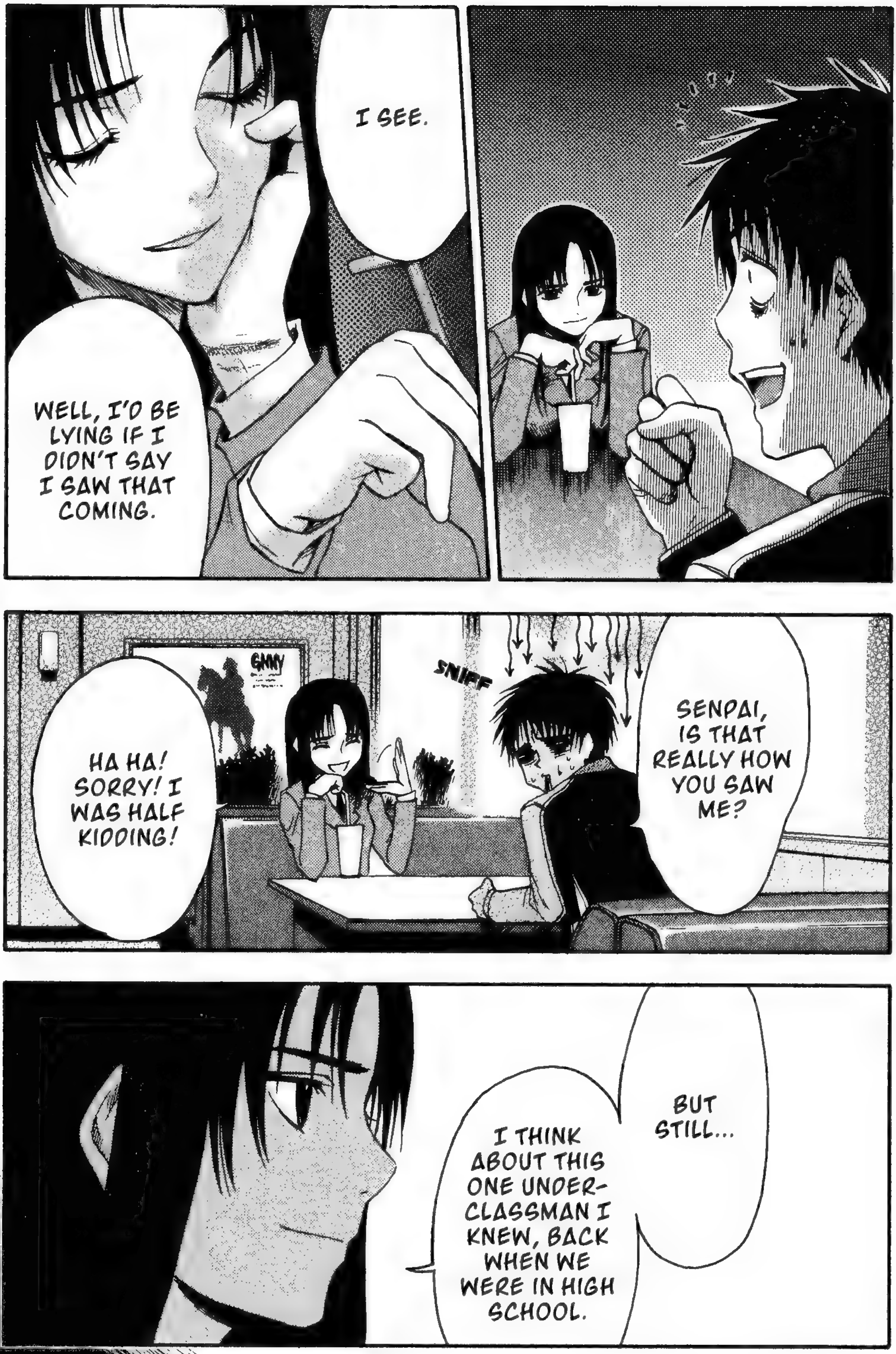
He was making a ruckus in the store, so they kicked him out.

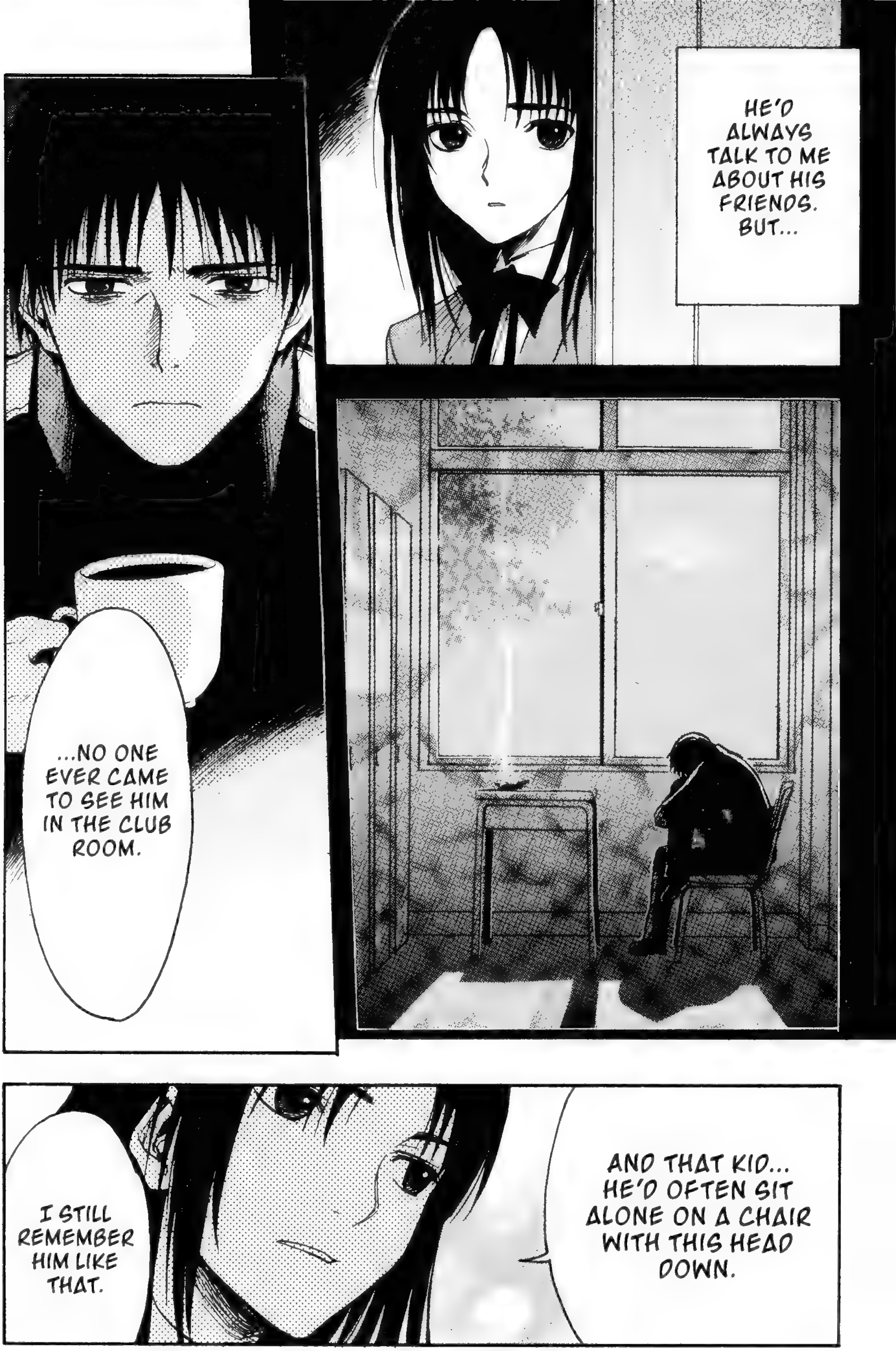

I KNEW IT! IT REALLY IS YOU!
IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS SINCE I LAST SAW YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SENPAI?

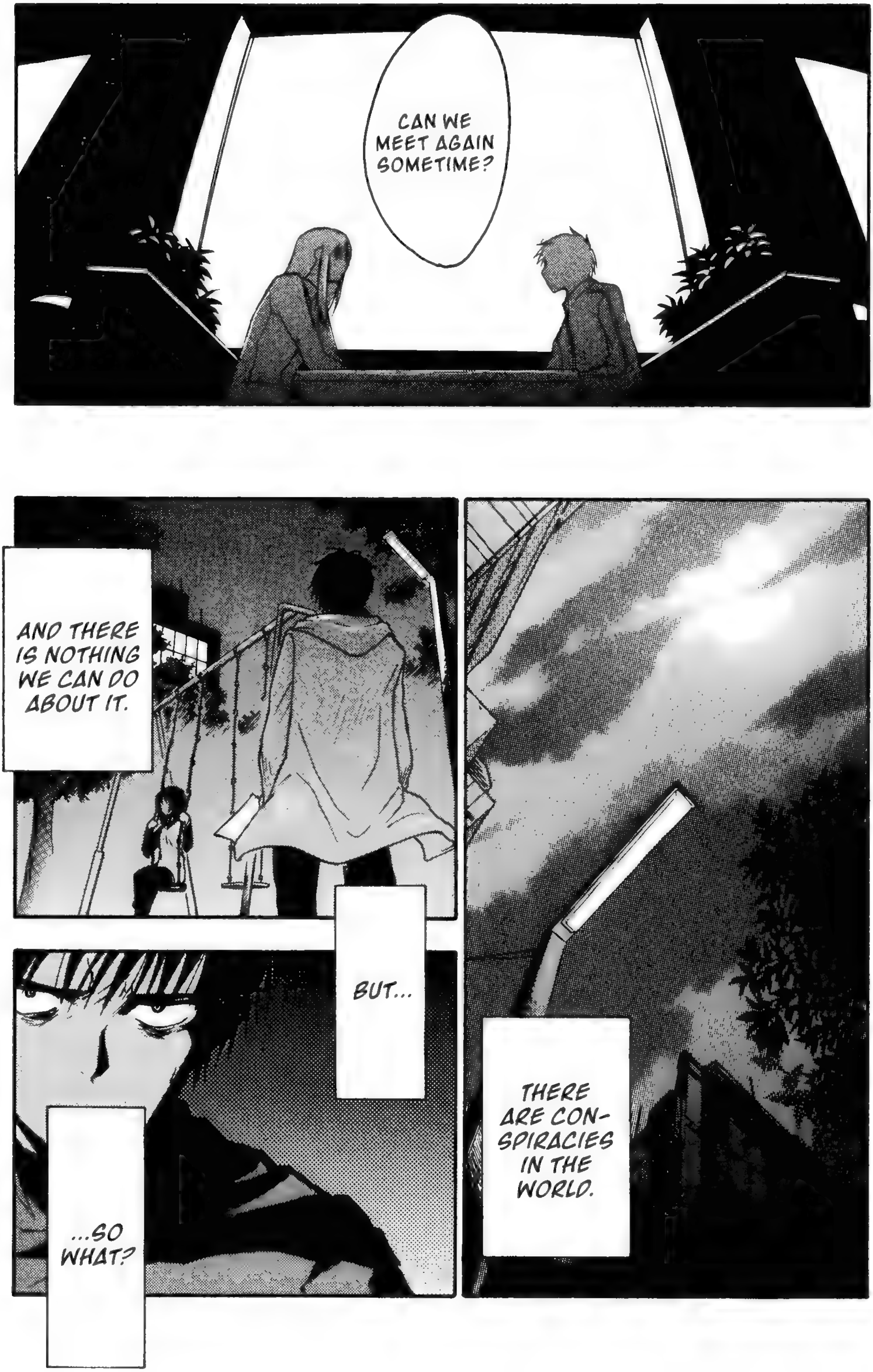

THIS ONE'S LEXOTAN.
I ALWAYS CARRY AROUND A SPARE IN MY POCKET, BECAUSE THEY'RE SO GOOD AT CALMING ALL OF MY WORRIES.
AND THIS ONE'S A SLEEPING PILL, HALCION.
ISN'T IT CUTE? SO SMALL AND BLUE.
ROCHE 2
▲Lexotan
▲Halcion
AND THIS IS MY ***LEGAL*** STIMULANT, RITALIN.
IT'S EASY TO GET A PRESCRIPTION FOR THEM IF YOU PRETEND THAT YOU HAVE NARCOLEPSY.
UH, SENPAI? JUST HOW MANY HOSPITALS DO YOU GO TO?
That's a lot of drugs.
MM, LET'S SEE. ABOUT THREE NOW, I THINK.
HERE, SATOU-KUN. I'LL SPLIT THEM WITH YOU. YOU'LL FEEL BETTER IN NO TIME.

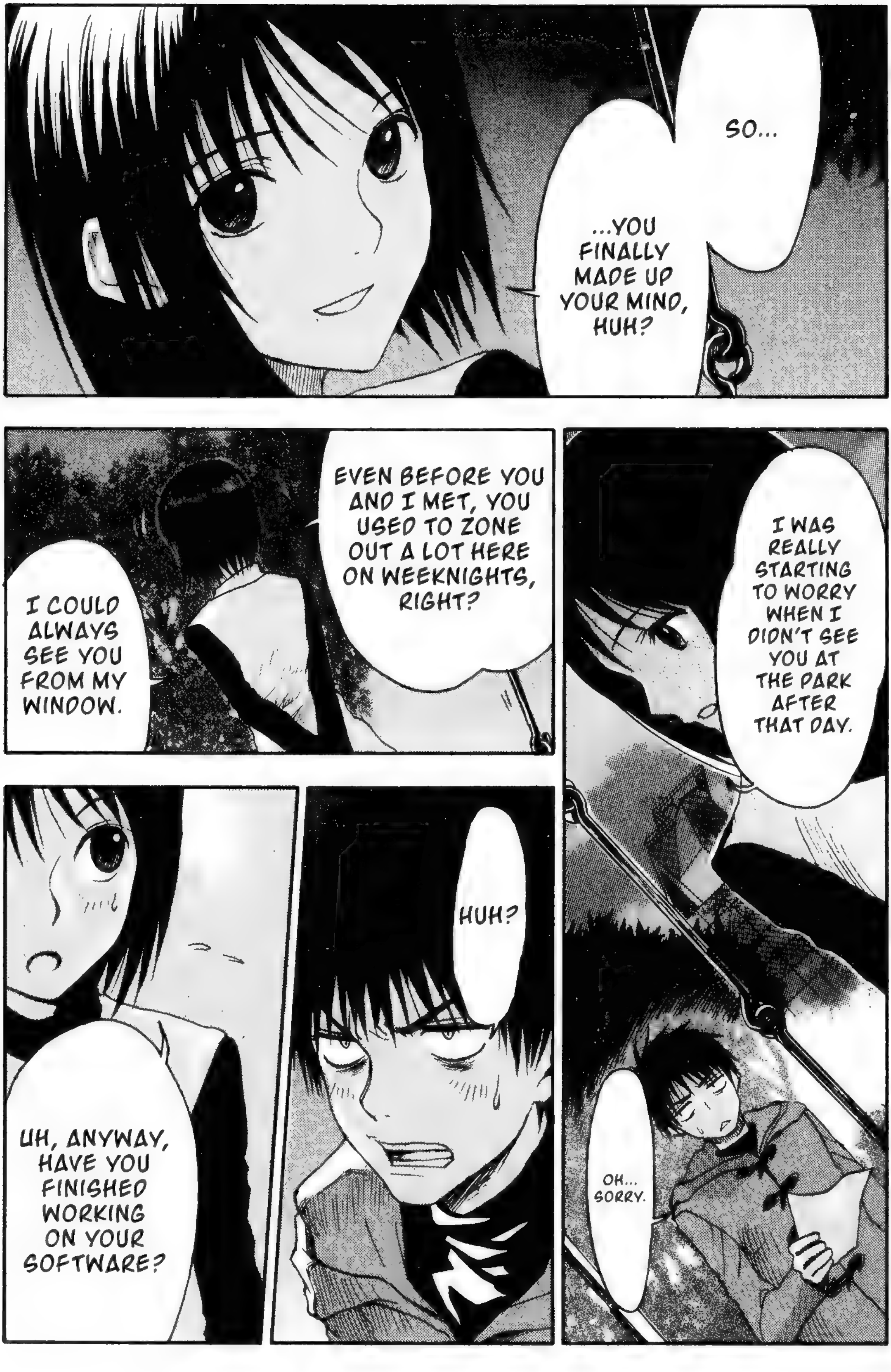

IT'S SO HARD BEING A WORKING MEMBER OF SOCIETY.
HUH?!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHAT DO YOU DO, SATOU-KUN?
AND JUST WHAT ARE YOU DOING WALKING AROUND ON A WEEKDAY WITH YOUR ARMS FULL OF STUFF?
UMMM...
YOU WORKING PART-TIME?
......
?
I WISH THAT WAS THE CASE...

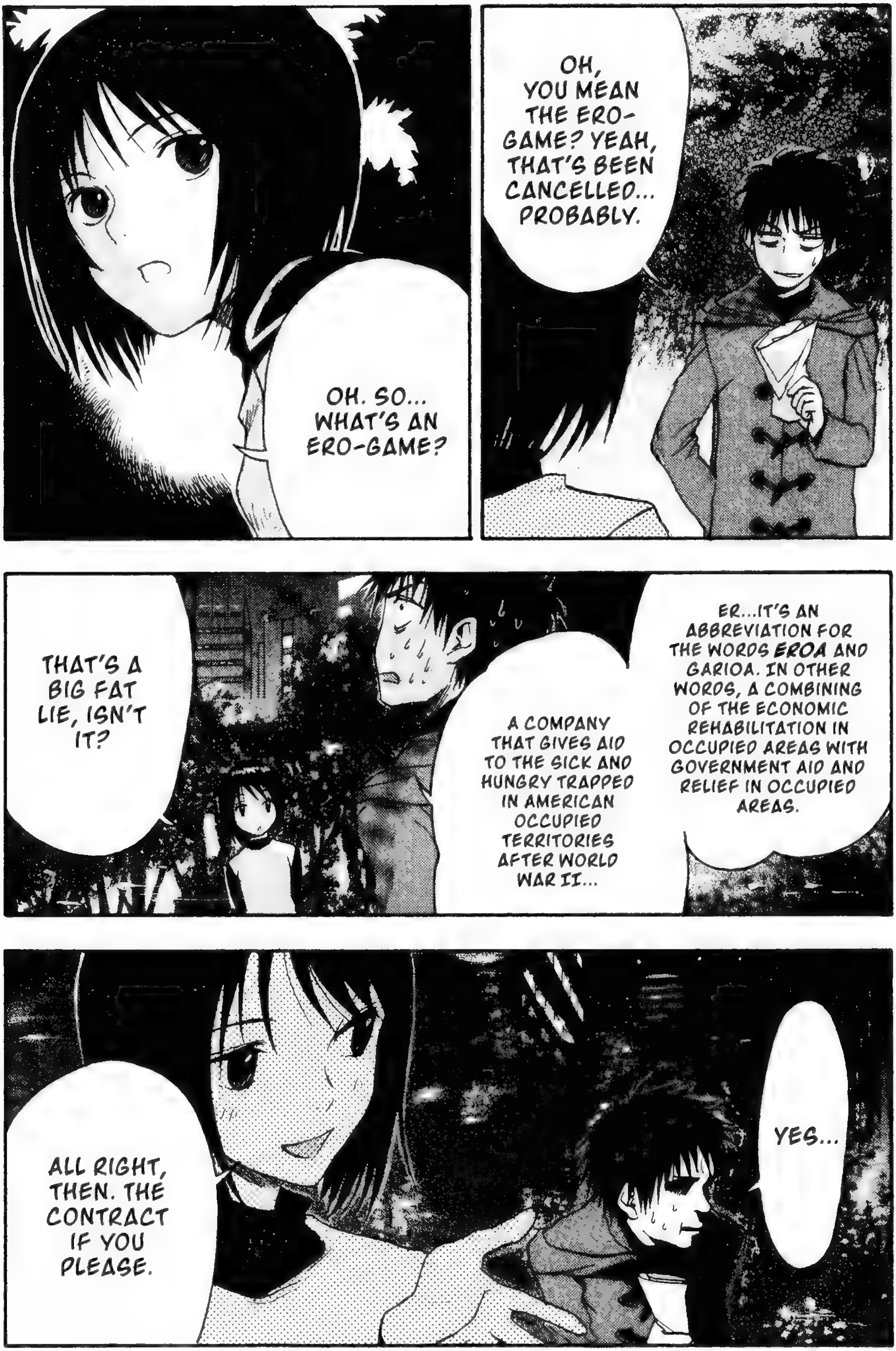

HEH!
WELL ...HOW SHOULD I PUT IT?
THE TRUTH IS...
...I'M A HIKIKOMORI.
AND ALL THESE BAGS YOU SEE ARE FULL OF EROTIC MANGA AND ANIME GOODS! I'M A TOTAL OTAKU!
HA HA HA!
AND I JUST BLEW MY APARTMENT'S RENT MONEY, SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL DO NEXT MONTH!
I DROPPED OUT OF COLLEGE AND HAVE BEEN COOPED UP IN MY HOUSE FOR FOUR YEARS!
YOU MAY CALL ME MASTER OF HIKIKOMORI, IF YOU LIKE!

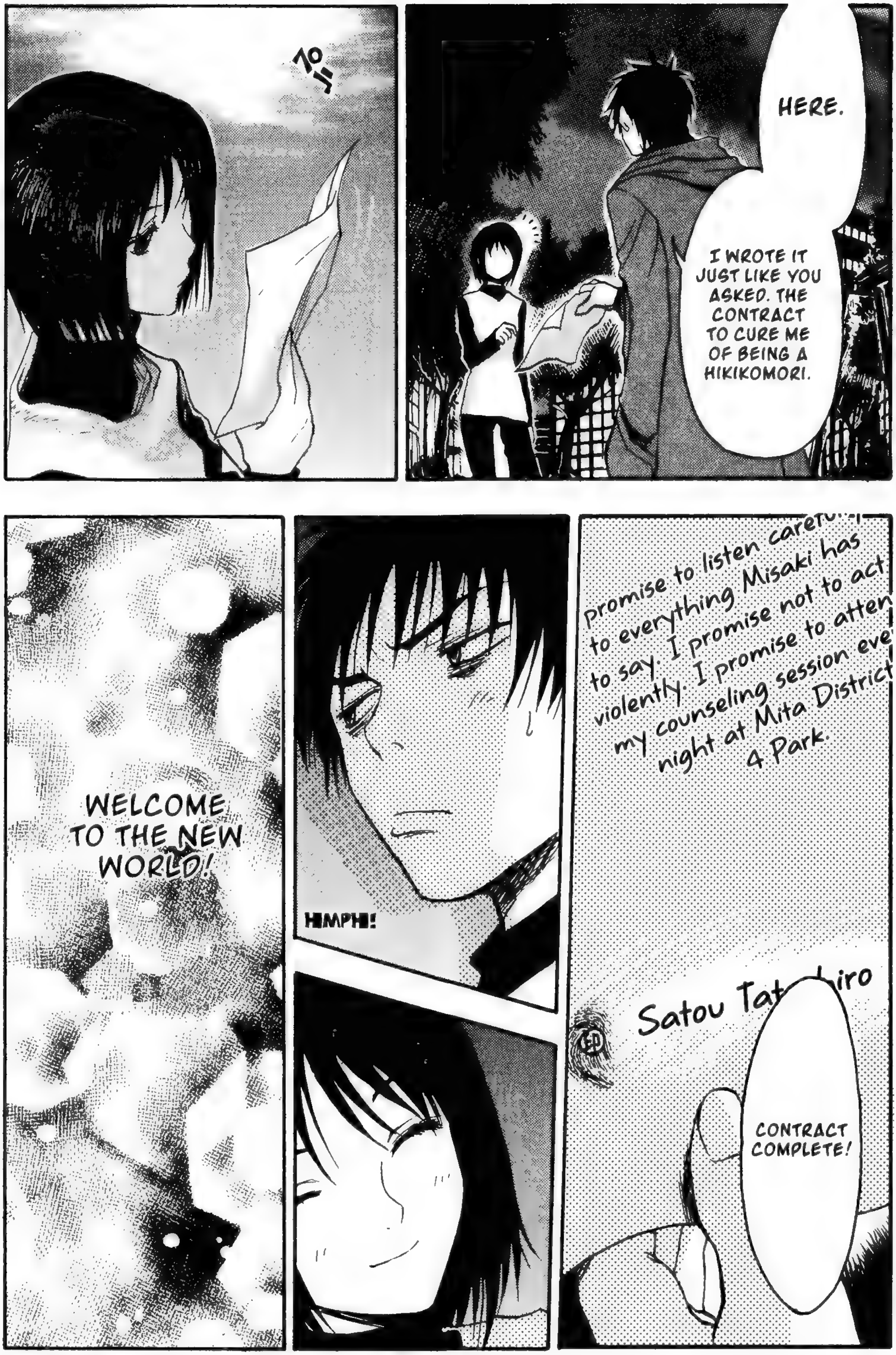

I SEE.
WELL, I'D BE LYING IF I DIDN'T SAY I SAW THAT COMING.
SENPAI, IS THAT REALLY HOW YOU SAW ME?
SNIFF
HA HA! SORRY! I WAS HALF KIDDING!
BUT STILL...
I THINK ABOUT THIS ONE UNDERCLASSMAN I KNEW, BACK WHEN WE WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL.


HE'D ALWAYS TALK TO ME ABOUT HIS FRIENDS. BUT...
...NO ONE EVER CAME TO SEE HIM IN THE CLUB ROOM.
AND THAT KID... HE'D OFTEN SIT ALONE ON A CHAIR WITH THIS HEAD DOWN.
I STILL REMEMBER HIM LIKE THAT.


CAN WE MEET AGAIN SOMETIME?
THERE ARE CONSPIRACIES IN THE WORLD.
AND THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT.
BUT...
...SO WHAT?


SO...
...YOU FINALLY MADE UP YOUR MIND, HUH?
I WAS REALLY STARTING TO WORRY WHEN I DIDN'T SEE YOU AT THE PARK AFTER THAT DAY.
OH... SORRY.
EVEN BEFORE YOU AND I MET, YOU USED TO ZONE OUT A LOT HERE ON WEEKNIGHTS, RIGHT?
I COULD ALWAYS SEE YOU FROM MY WINDOW.
HUH?
UH, ANYWAY, HAVE YOU FINISHED WORKING ON YOUR SOFTWARE?


OH, YOU MEAN THE ERO-GAME? YEAH, THAT'S BEEN CANCELLED... PROBABLY.
OH. SO... WHAT'S AN ERO-GAME?
ER...IT'S AN ABBREVIATION FOR THE WORDS *EROA* AND GARIOA. IN OTHER WORDS, A COMBINING OF THE ECONOMIC REHABILITATION IN OCCUPIED AREAS WITH GOVERNMENT AID AND RELIEF IN OCCUPIED AREAS.
A COMPANY THAT GIVES AID TO THE SICK AND HUNGRY TRAPPED IN AMERICAN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AFTER WORLD WAR II...
THAT'S A BIG FAT LIE, ISN'T IT?
YES...
ALL RIGHT, THEN. THE CONTRACT IF YOU PLEASE.

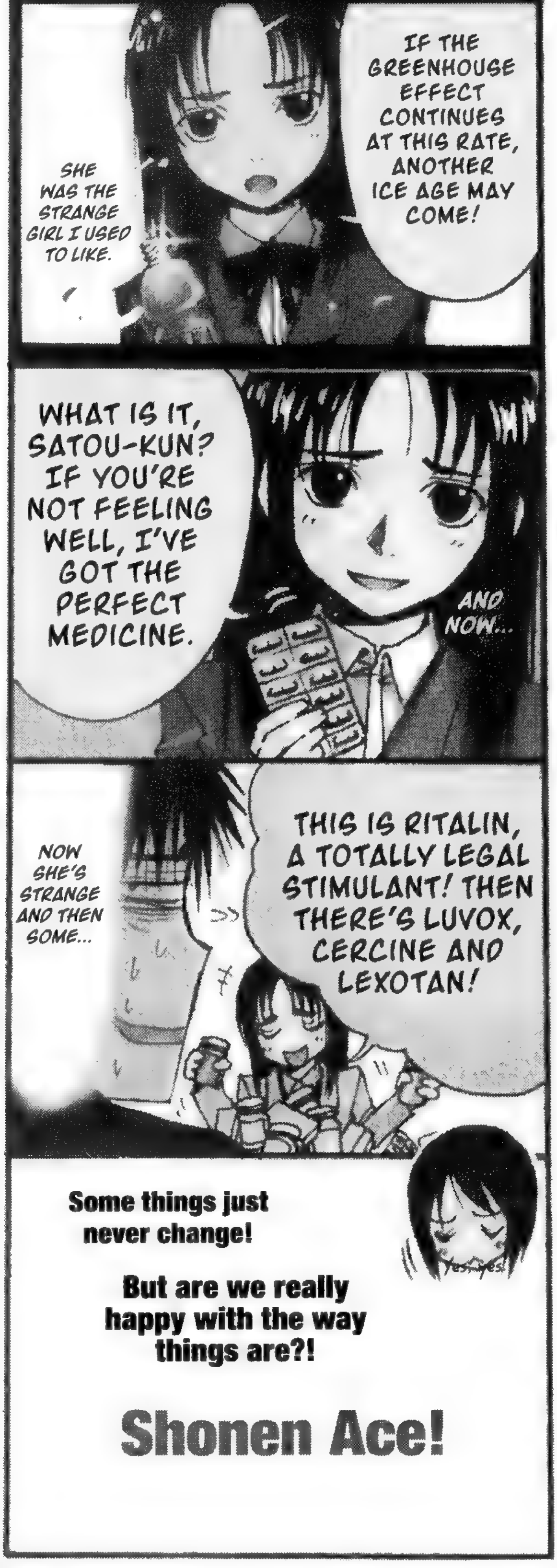

HERE.
I WROTE IT JUST LIKE YOU ASKED. THE CONTRACT TO CURE ME OF BEING A HIKIKOMORI.
ピリ
promise to listen carefu
to everything Misaki has
to say. I promise not to act
violently. I promise to atten
my counseling session eve
night at Mita District
4 Park.
Satou Tat hiro
CONTRACT COMPLETE!
HMPH!
WELCOME TO THE NEW WORLD!

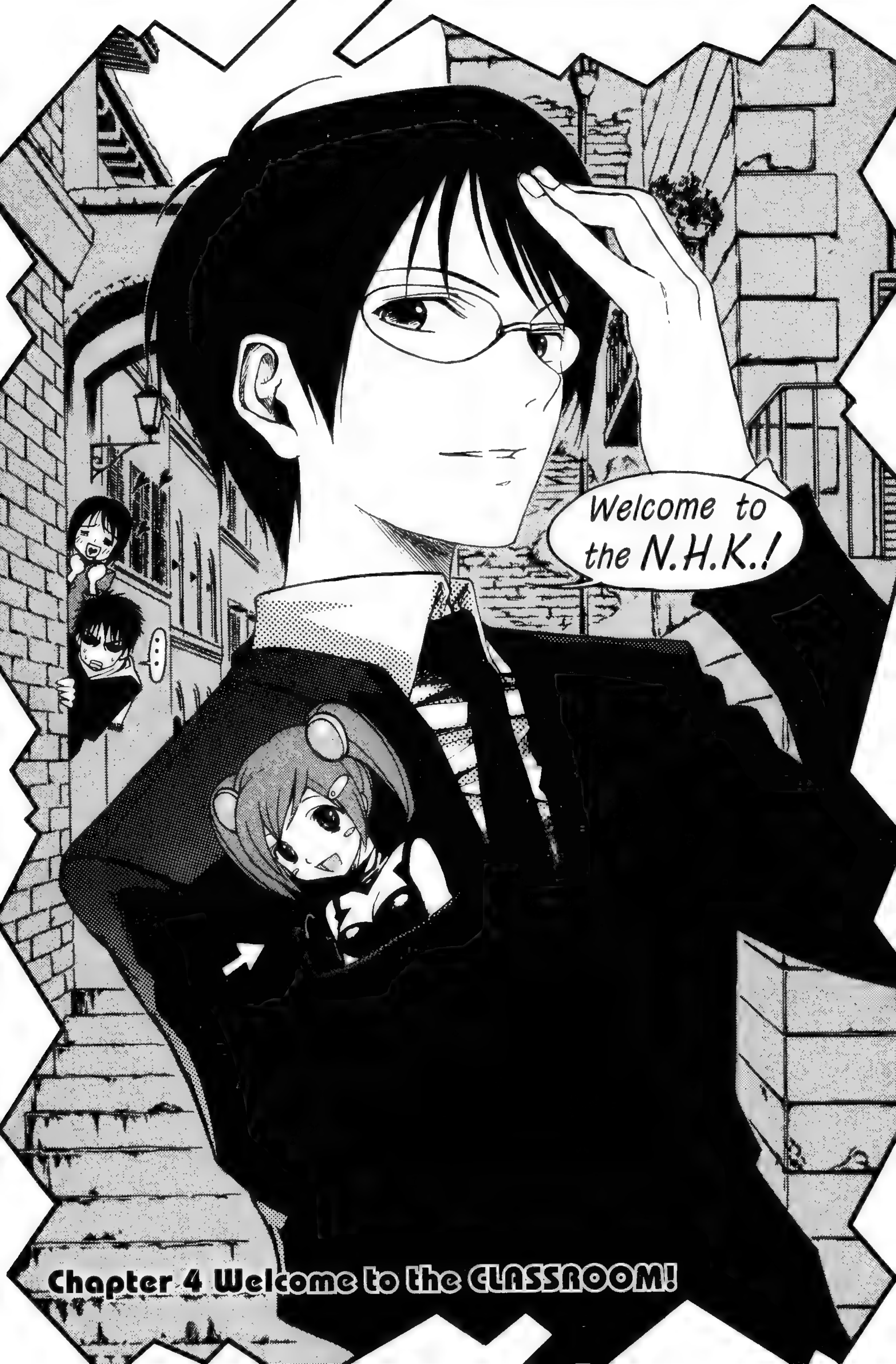
Welcome to the N.H.K.

#03 Welcome to the NEW WORLD!

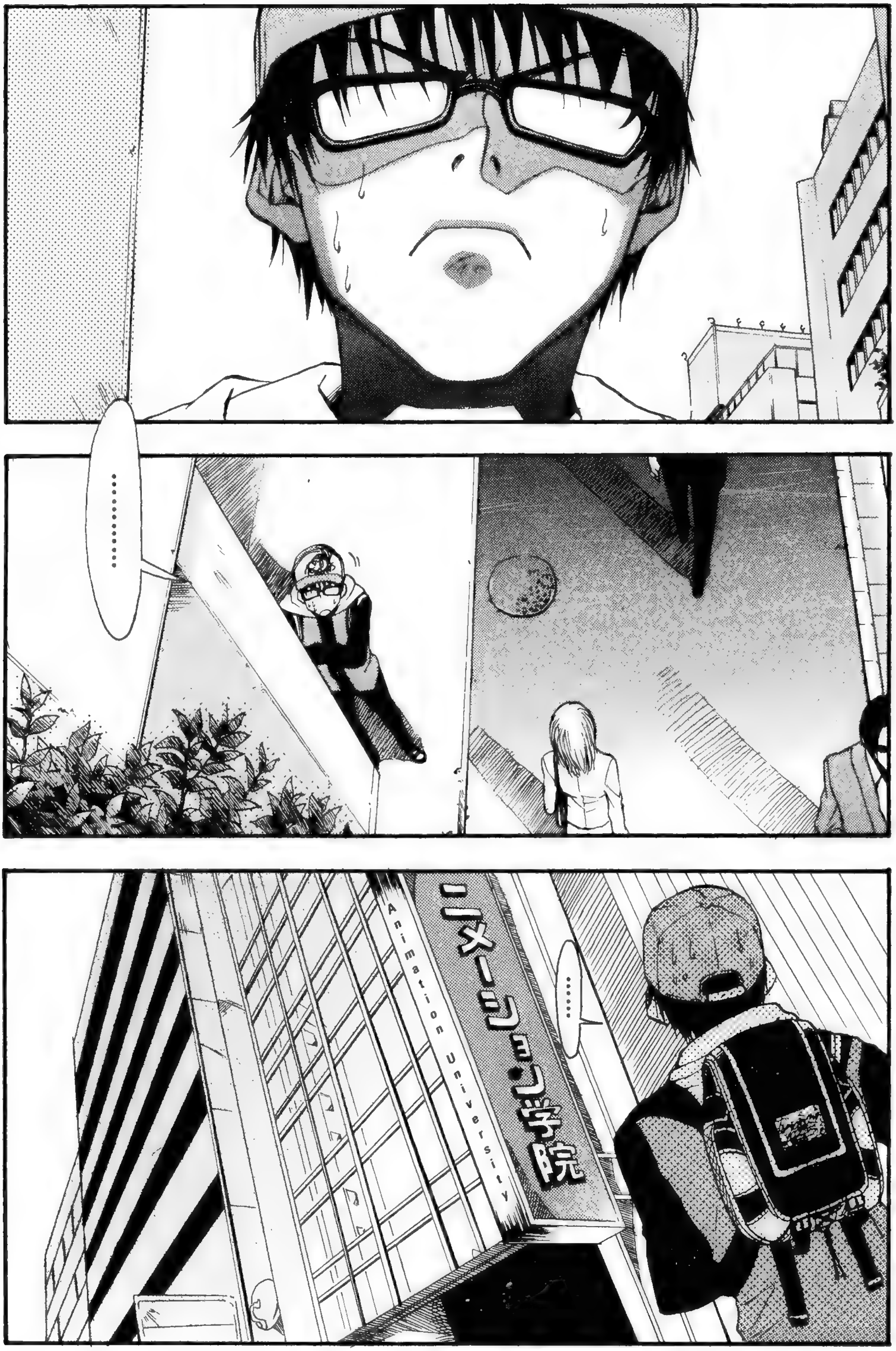
CONTINUED IN EPISODE #03...

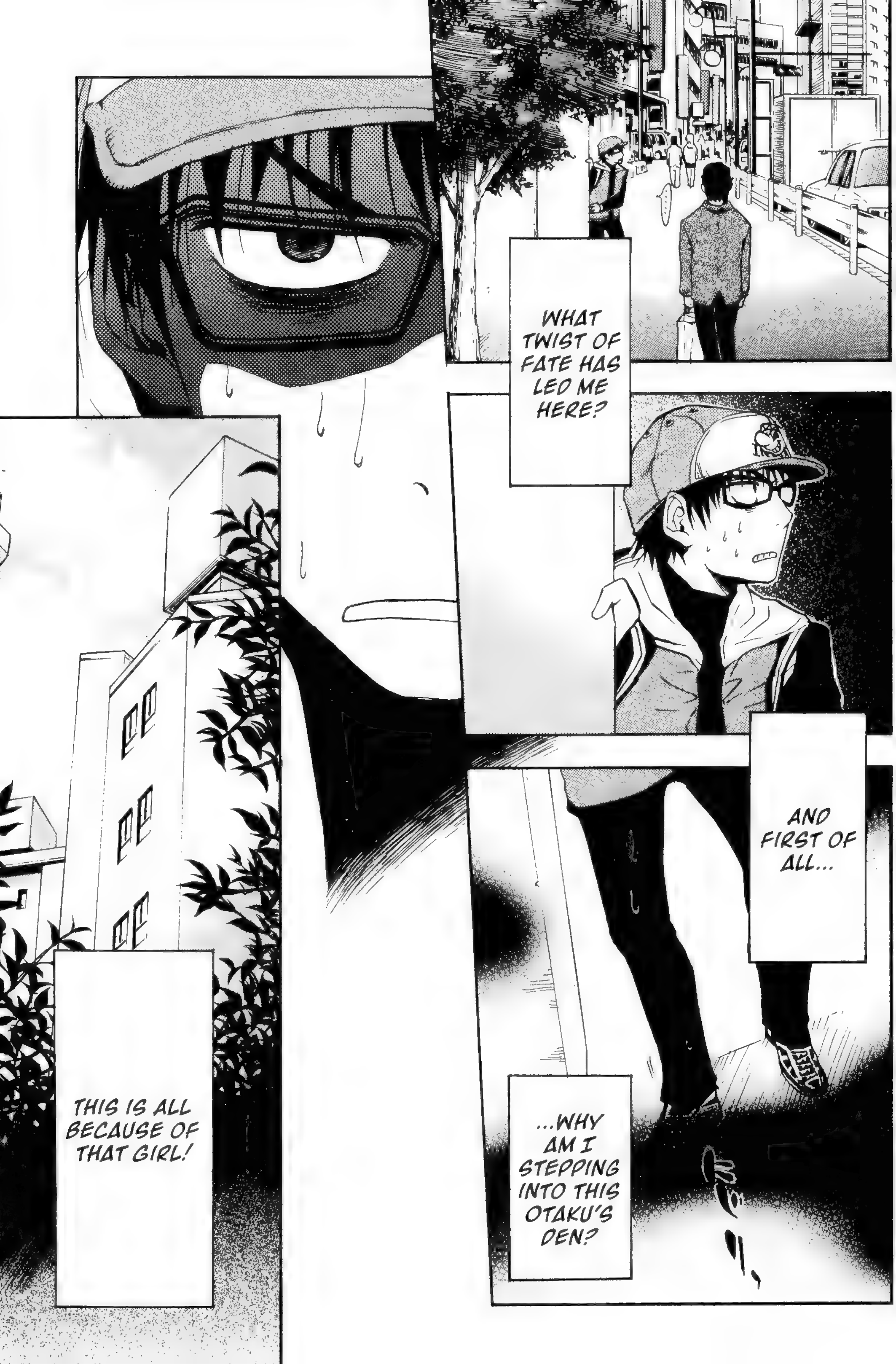
Welcome to the N.H.K. 4-panel Comic - #3

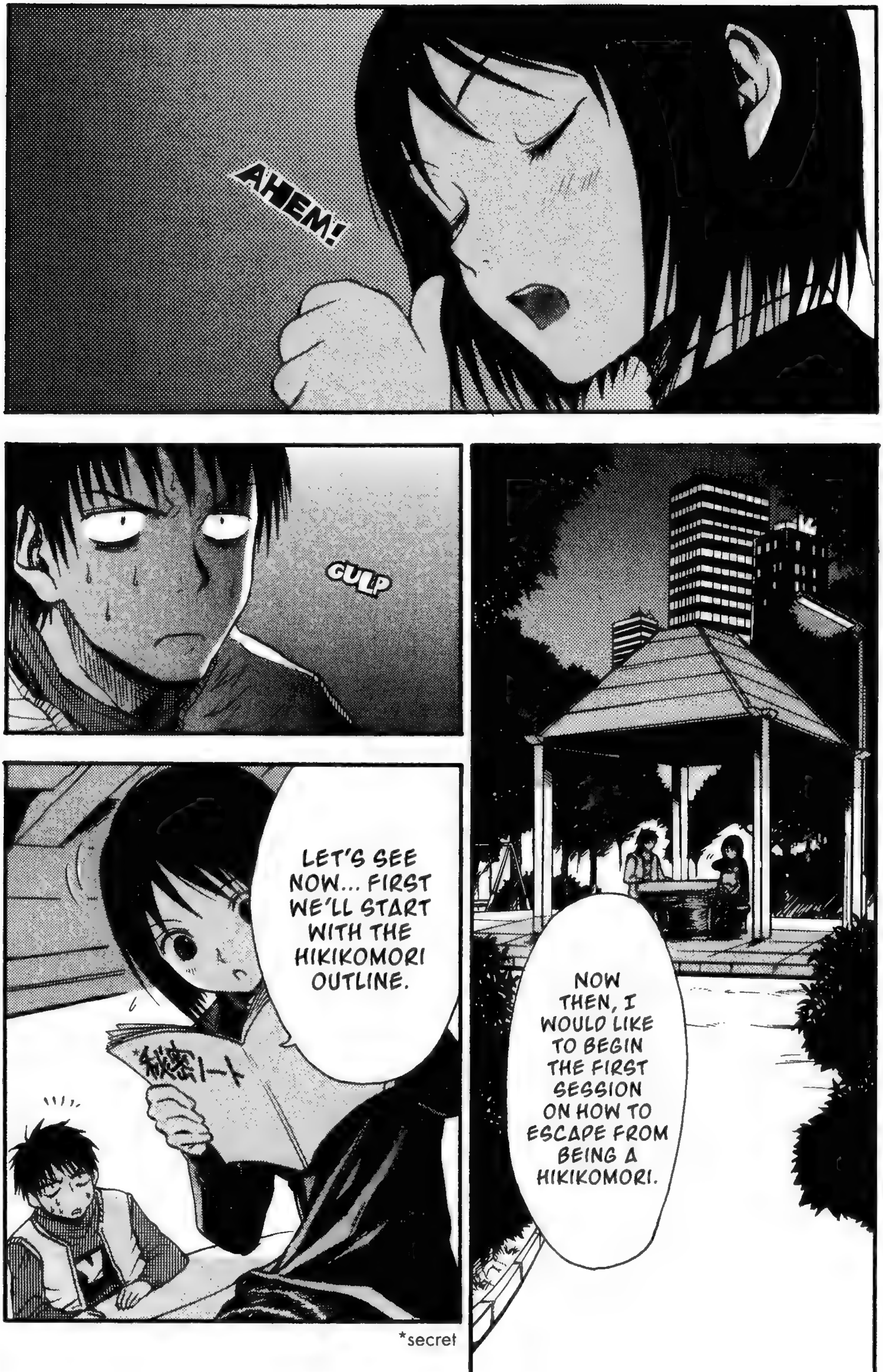

IF THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT CONTINUES AT THIS RATE, ANOTHER ICE AGE MAY COME!
SHE WAS THE STRANGE GIRL I USED TO LIKE.
AND NOW...
WHAT IS IT, SATOU-KUN? IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL, I'VE GOT THE PERFECT MEDICINE.
THIS IS RITALIN, A TOTALLY LEGAL STIMULANT! THEN THERE'S LUVOX, CERCINE AND LEXOTAN!
NOW SHE'S STRANGE AND THEN SOME...
yes, yes!
Some things just never change!
But are we really happy with the way things are?!
Shonen Ace!


Welcome to the N.H.K.!
...

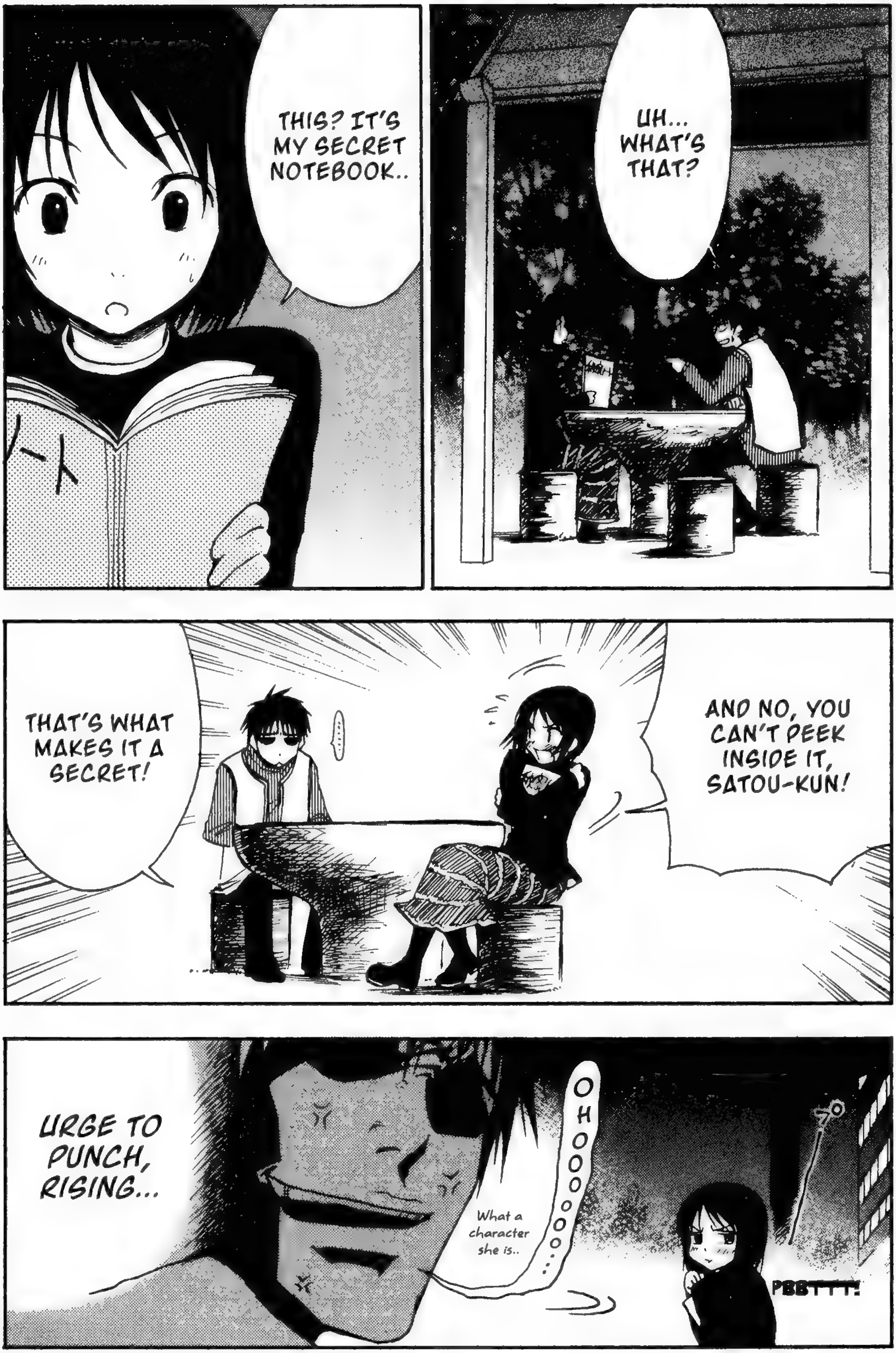
Chapter 4 Welcome to the CLASSROOM!

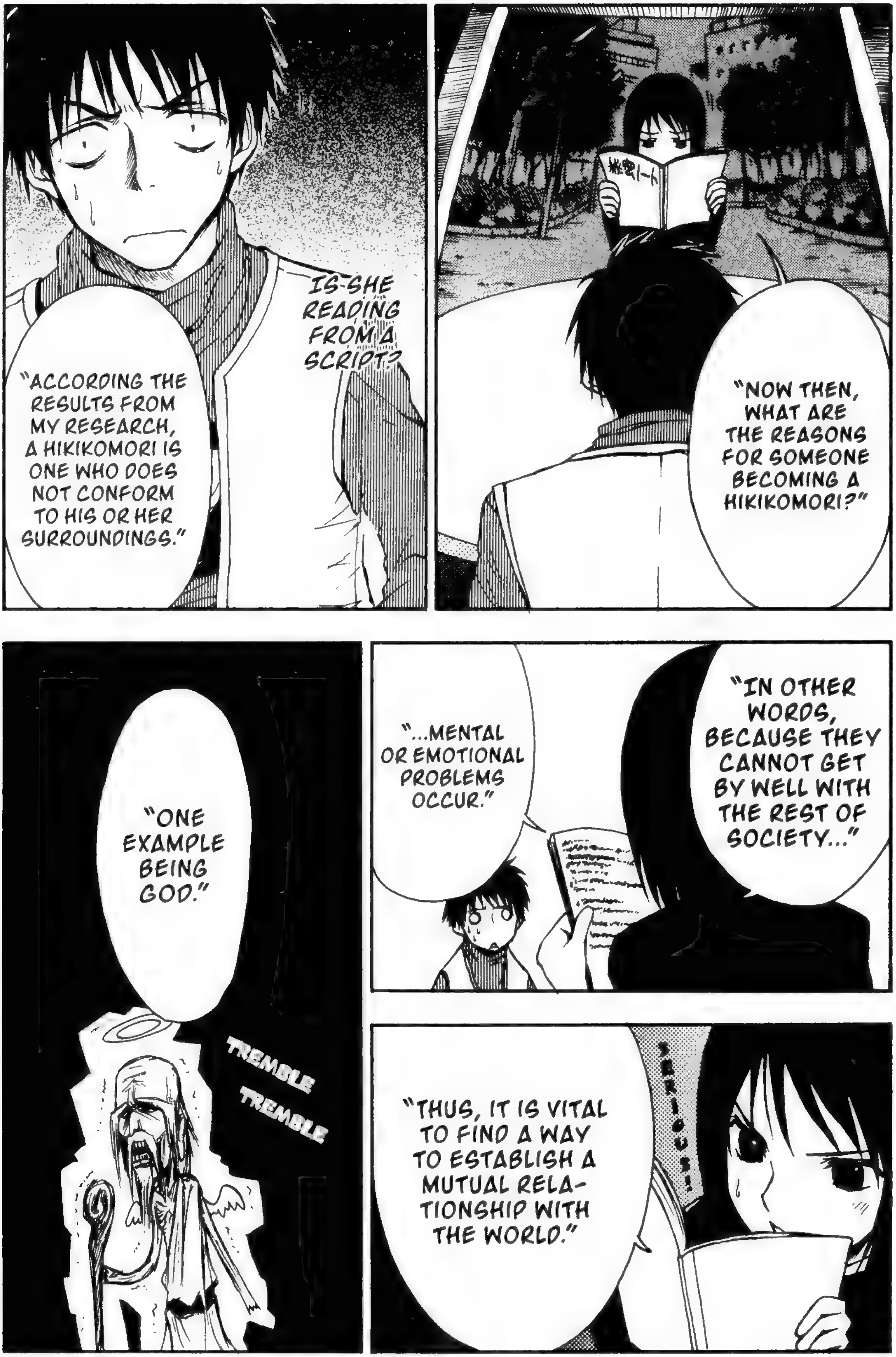

……………
ニメーション学院
Animation University
……

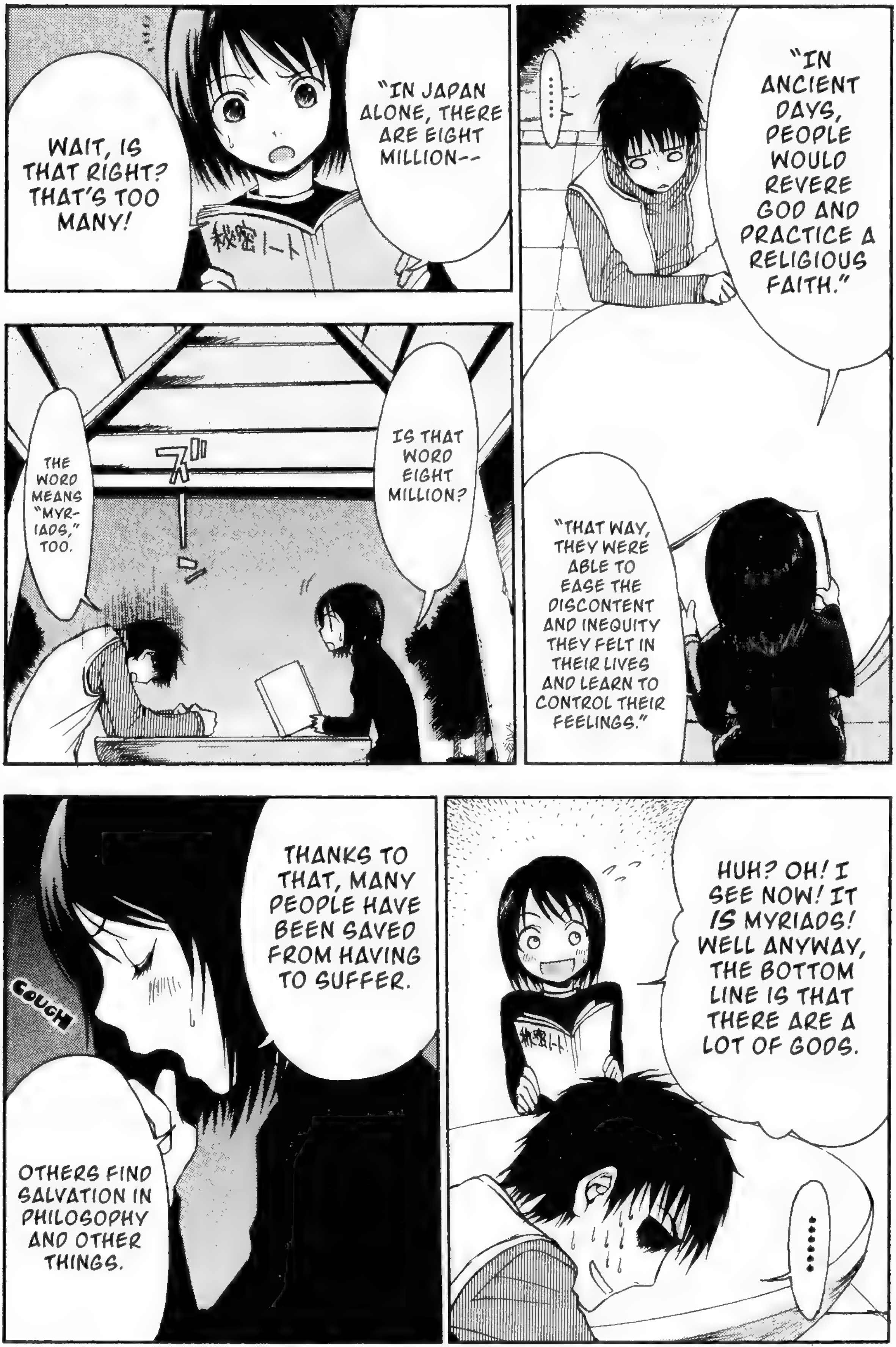

WHAT TWIST OF FATE HAS LED ME HERE?
AND FIRST OF ALL...
...WHY AM I STEPPING INTO THIS OTAKU'S DEN?
THIS IS ALL BECAUSE OF THAT GIRL!

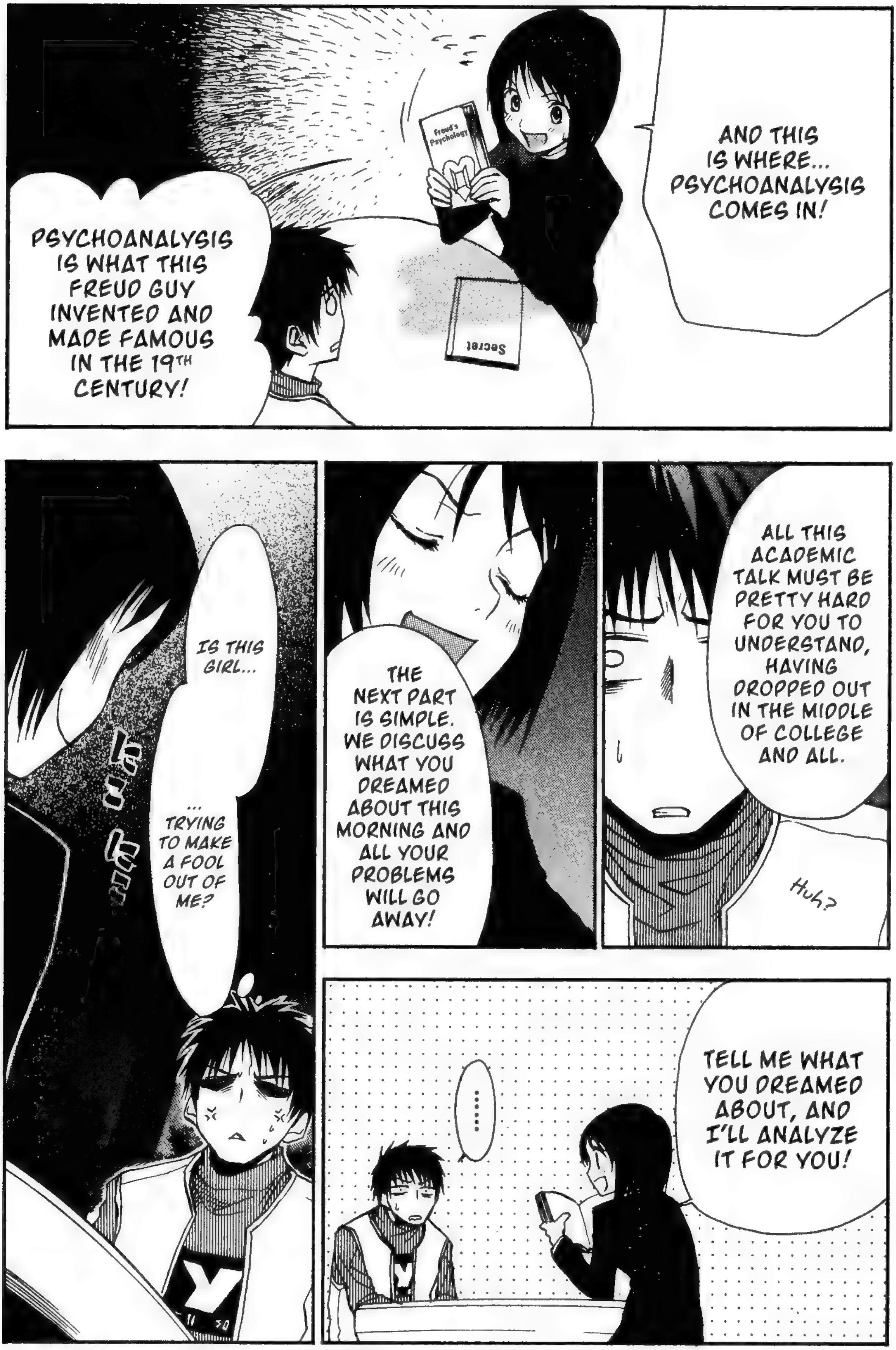

AHEM!
NOW THEN, I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN THE FIRST SESSION ON HOW TO ESCAPE FROM BEING A HIKIKOMORI.
GULP
LET'S SEE NOW... FIRST WE'LL START WITH THE HIKIKOMORI OUTLINE.
*秘密ノート

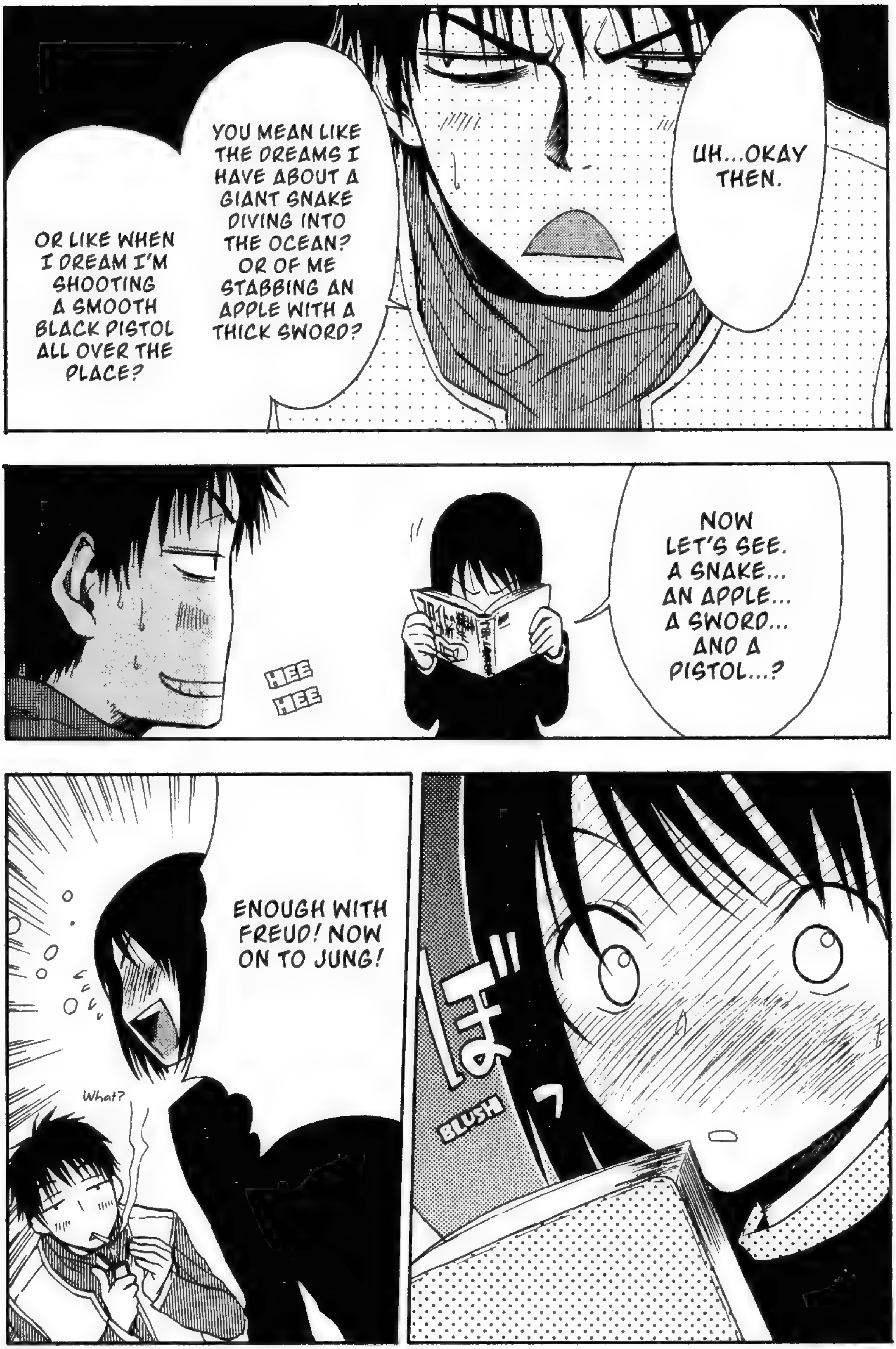
*secret

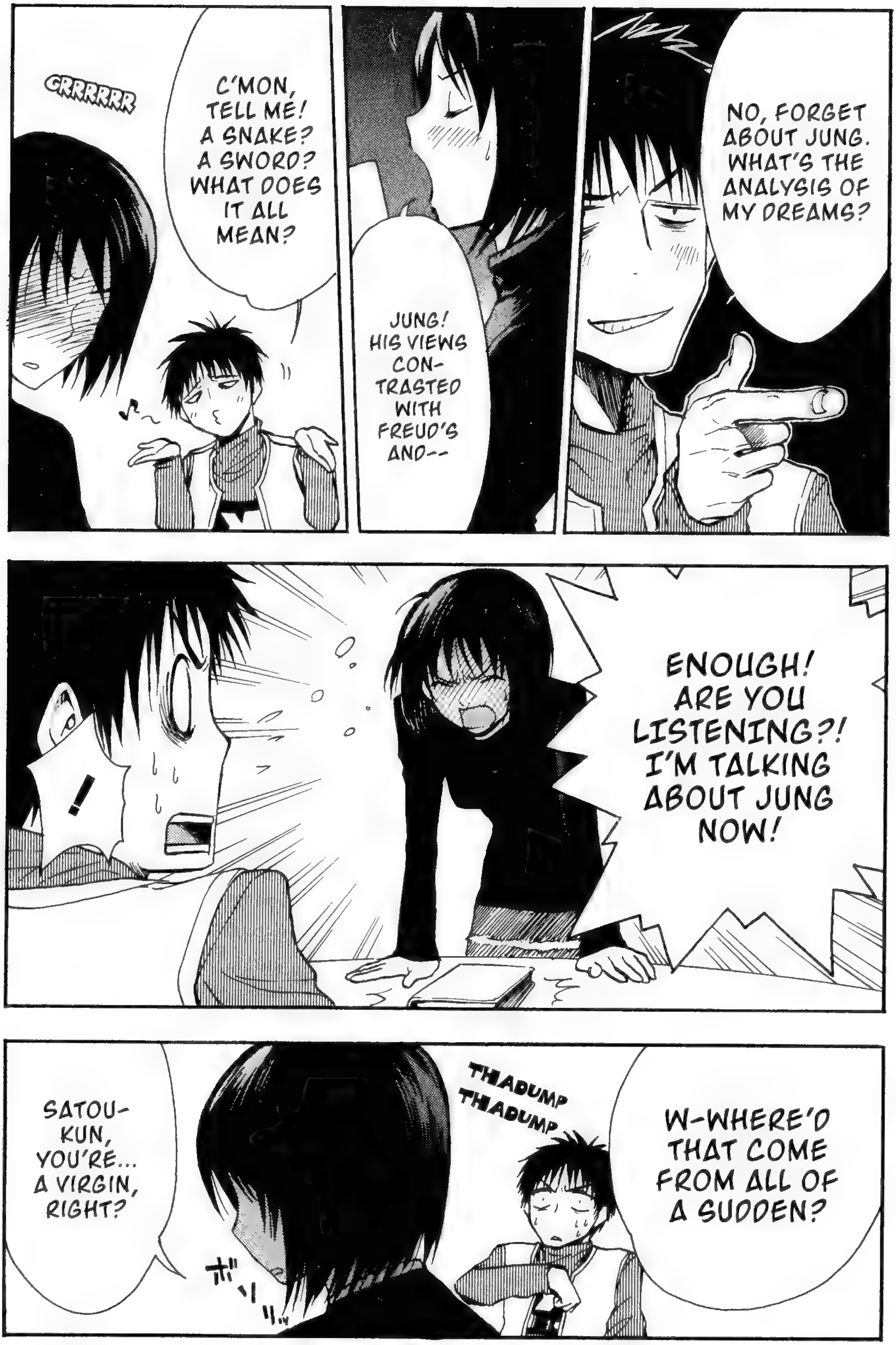

UH... WHAT'S THAT?
THIS? IT'S MY SECRET NOTEBOOK..
ノート
AND NO, YOU CAN'T PEEK INSIDE IT, SATOU-KUN!
...
THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT A SECRET!
PBBTTT!
OHOOOOOOOO...
What a character she is..
URGE TO PUNCH, RISING...

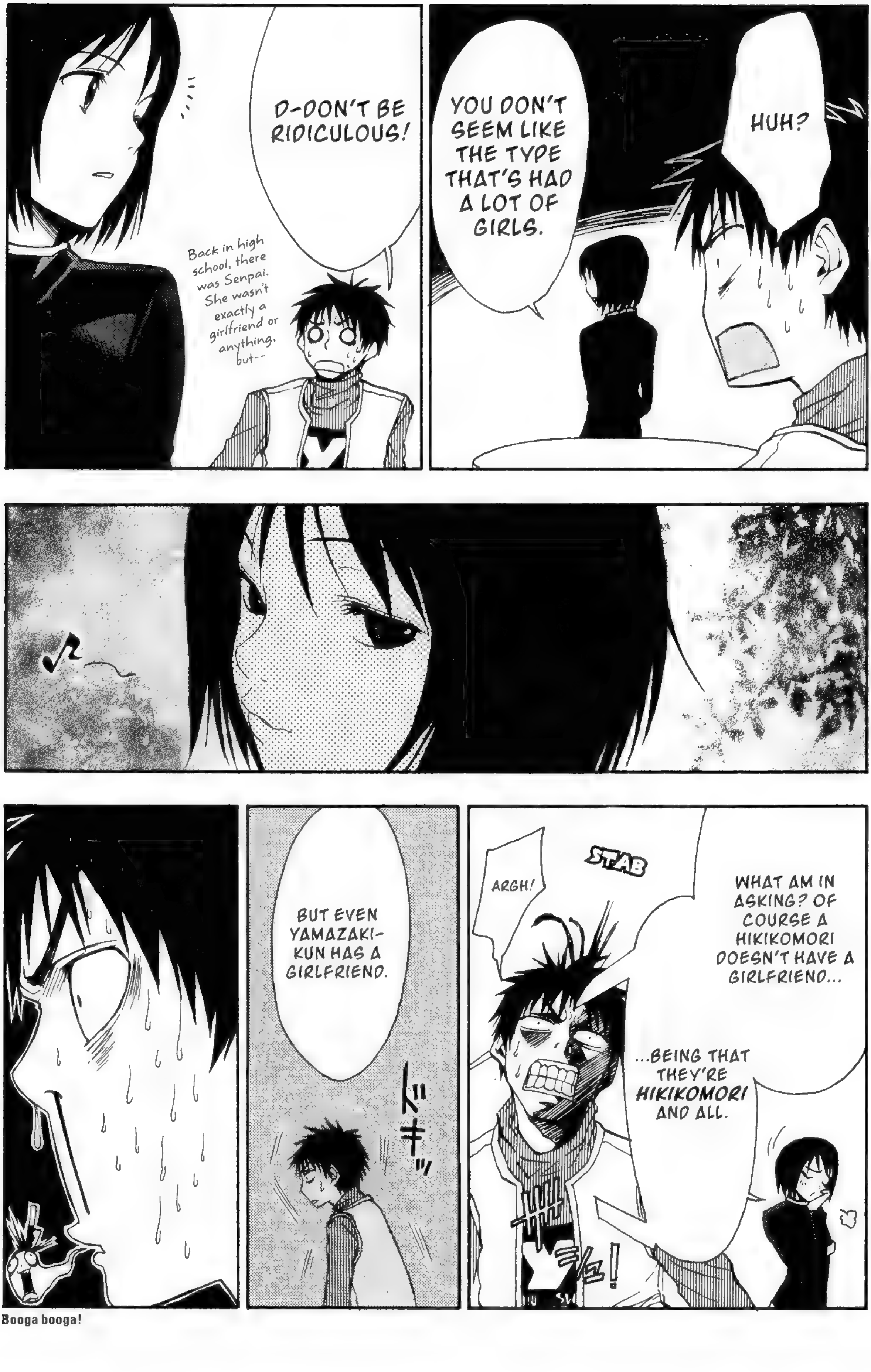

"NOW THEN, WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR SOMEONE BECOMING A HIKIKOMORI?"
IS SHE READING FROM A SCRIPT?
"ACCORDING THE RESULTS FROM MY RESEARCH, A HIKIKOMORI IS ONE WHO DOES NOT CONFORM TO HIS OR HER SURROUNDINGS."
"IN OTHER WORDS, BECAUSE THEY CANNOT GET BY WELL WITH THE REST OF SOCIETY..."
"...MENTAL OR EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS OCCUR."
SERIOUS!
"THUS, IT IS VITAL TO FIND A WAY TO ESTABLISH A MUTUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD."
"ONE EXAMPLE BEING GOD."
TREMBLE
TREMBLE


……
"IN ANCIENT DAYS, PEOPLE WOULD REVERE GOD AND PRACTICE A RELIGIOUS FAITH."
"THAT WAY, THEY WERE ABLE TO EASE THE DISCONTENT AND INEQUITY THEY FELT IN THEIR LIVES AND LEARN TO CONTROL THEIR FEELINGS."
"IN JAPAN ALONE, THERE ARE EIGHT MILLION--
WAIT, IS THAT RIGHT? THAT'S TOO MANY!
秘密ノート
IS THAT WORD EIGHT MILLION?
ズ
THE WORD MEANS "MYRIADS," TOO.
HUH? OH! I SEE NOW! IT *IS* MYRIADS! WELL ANYWAY, THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF GODS.
秘密ノート
……
THANKS TO THAT, MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SAVED FROM HAVING TO SUFFER.
COUGH
OTHERS FIND SALVATION IN PHILOSOPHY AND OTHER THINGS.

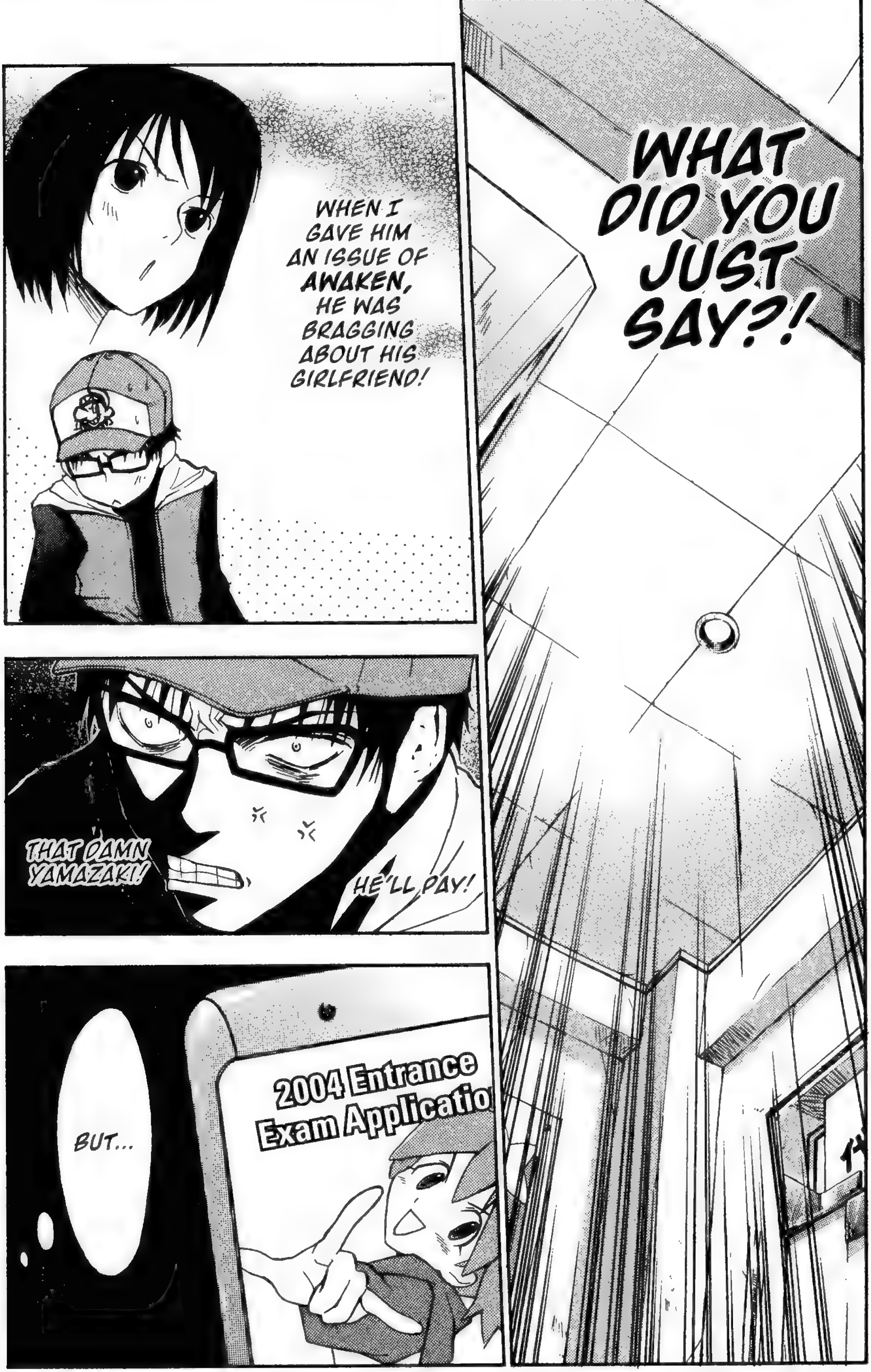

AND THIS IS WHERE... PSYCHOANALYSIS COMES IN!
Freud's Psychology
Secret
PSYCHOANALYSIS IS WHAT THIS FREUD GUY INVENTED AND MADE FAMOUS IN THE 19TH CENTURY!
ALL THIS ACADEMIC TALK MUST BE PRETTY HARD FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND, HAVING DROPPED OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF COLLEGE AND ALL.
Huh?
THE NEXT PART IS SIMPLE. WE DISCUSS WHAT YOU DREAMED ABOUT THIS MORNING AND ALL YOUR PROBLEMS WILL GO AWAY!
IS THIS GIRL...
...TRYING TO MAKE A FOOL OUT OF ME?
TELL ME WHAT YOU DREAMED ABOUT, AND I'LL ANALYZE IT FOR YOU!
......

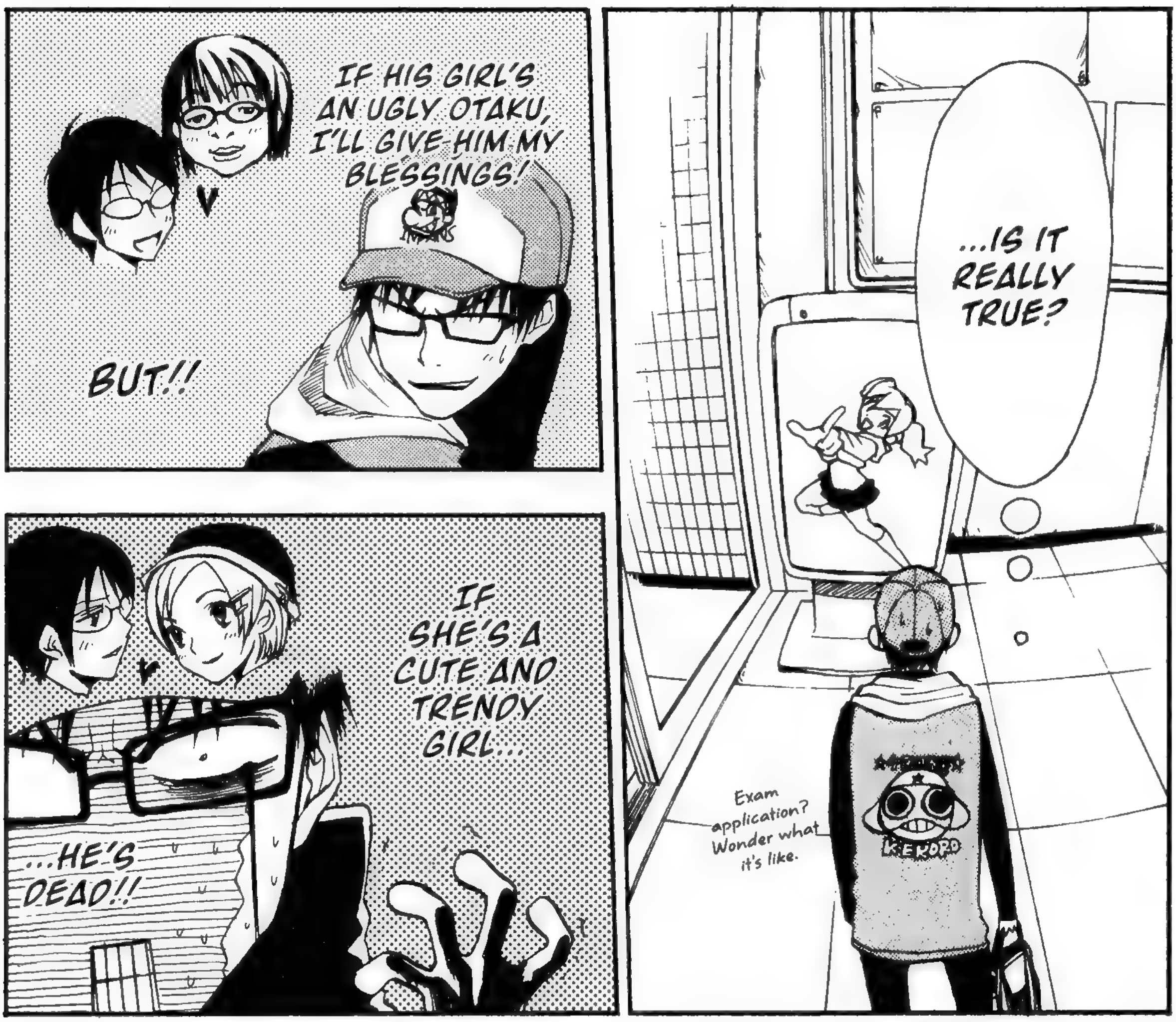

UH...OKAY THEN.
YOU MEAN LIKE THE DREAMS I HAVE ABOUT A GIANT SNAKE DIVING INTO THE OCEAN? OR OF ME STABBING AN APPLE WITH A THICK SWORD?
OR LIKE WHEN I DREAM I'M SHOOTING A SMOOTH BLACK PISTOL ALL OVER THE PLACE?
NOW LET'S SEE. A SNAKE... AN APPLE... A SWORD... AND A PISTOL...?
HEE HEE
ぼっ
BLUSH
ENOUGH WITH FREUD! NOW ON TO JUNG!
What?


NO, FORGET ABOUT JUNG. WHAT'S THE ANALYSIS OF MY DREAMS?
JUNG! HIS VIEWS CONTRASTED WITH FREUD'S AND--
C'MON, TELL ME! A SNAKE? A SWORD? WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?
GRRRRRR
ENOUGH! ARE YOU LISTENING?! I'M TALKING ABOUT JUNG NOW!
!
W-WHERE'D THAT COME FROM ALL OF A SUDDEN?
THADUMP THADUMP
SATOU-KUN, YOU'RE... A VIRGIN, RIGHT?
ボッ

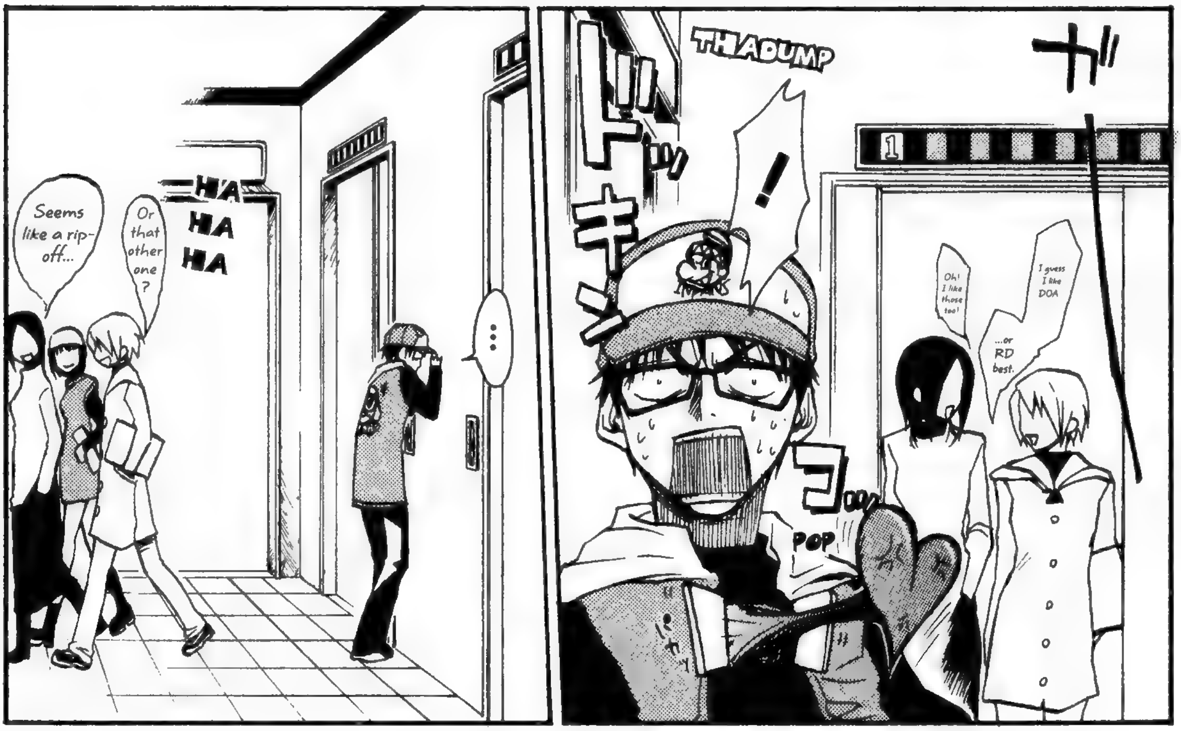

HUH?
YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE THE TYPE THAT'S HAD A LOT OF GIRLS.
D-DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!
Back in high school, there was Senpai. She wasn't exactly a girlfriend or anything, but--
WHAT AM IN ASKING? OF COURSE A HIKIKOMORI DOESN'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND...
...BEING THAT THEY'RE *HIKIKOMORI* AND ALL.
STAB
ARGH!
BUT EVEN YAMAZAKI-KUN HAS A GIRLFRIEND.
ドキッ

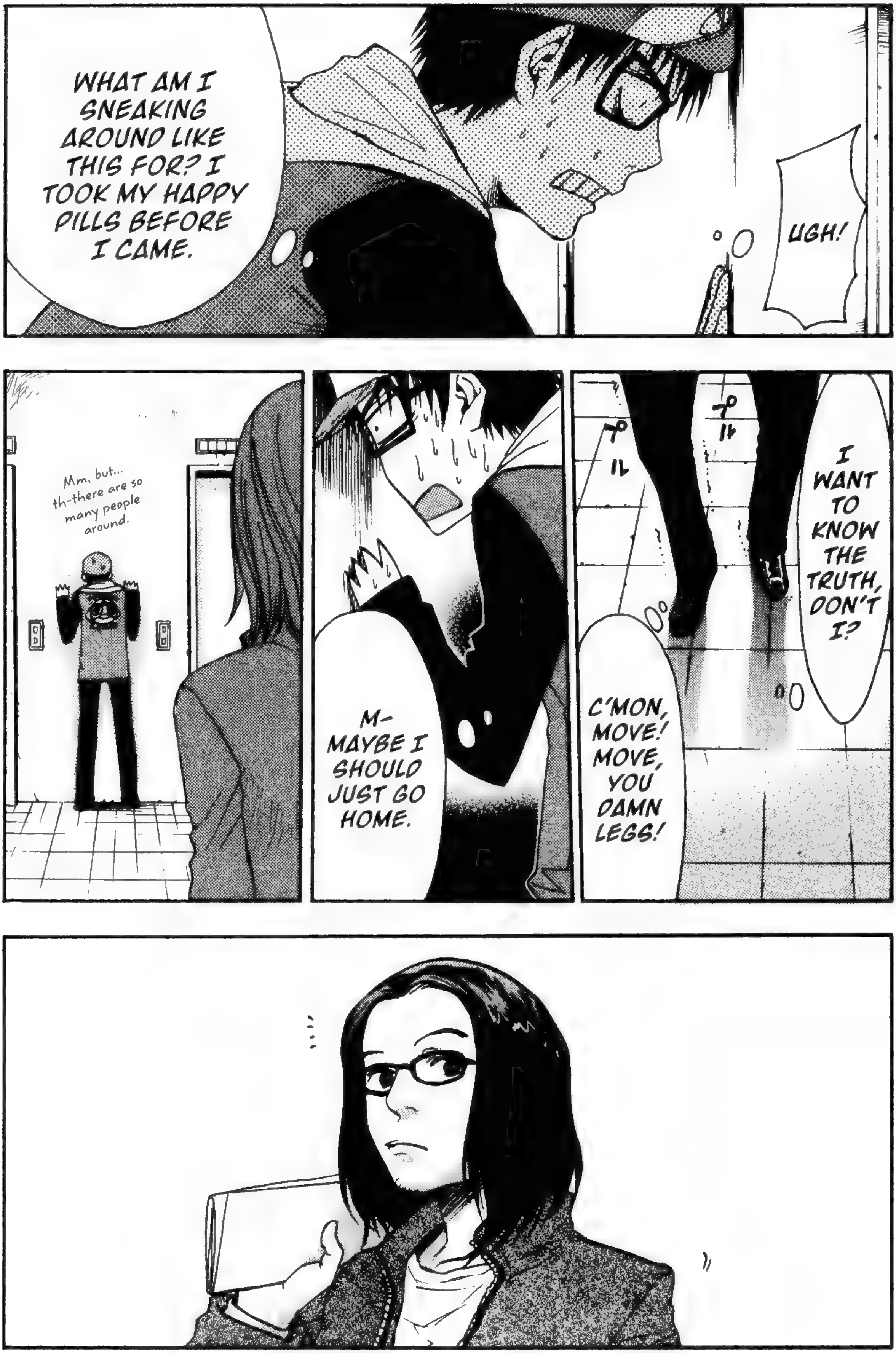
Booga booga!

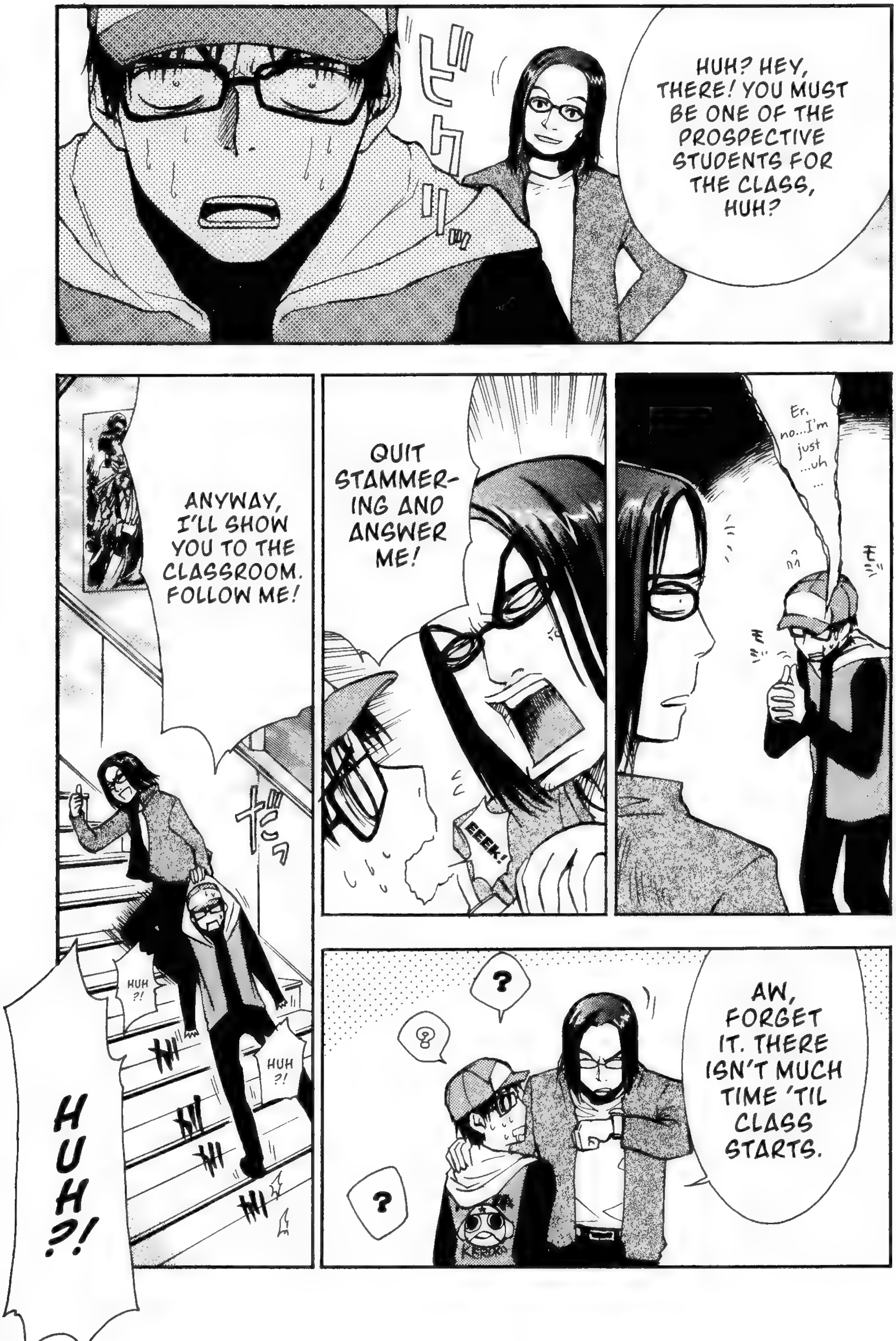

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!
WHEN I GAVE HIM AN ISSUE OF AWAKEN, HE WAS BRAGGING ABOUT HIS GIRLFRIEND!
HE'LL PAY!
THAT DAMN YAMAZAKI!
2004 Entrance Exam Applicatio
BUT...

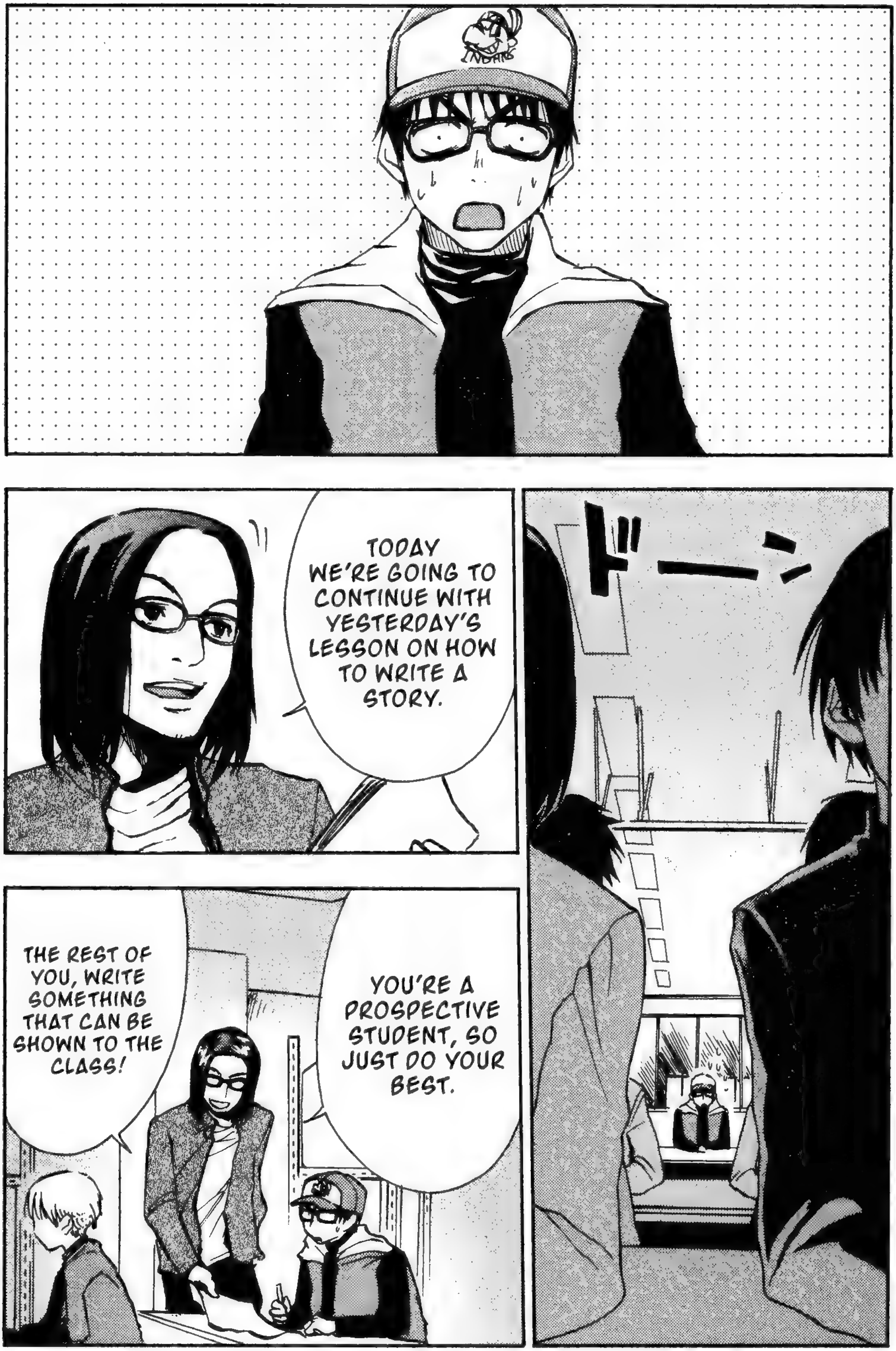

...IS IT REALLY TRUE?
Exam application? Wonder what it's like.
K-EKORO
IF HIS GIRL'S AN UGLY OTAKU, I'LL GIVE HIM MY BLESSINGS!
BUT!!
IF SHE'S A CUTE AND TRENDY GIRL...
...HE'S DEAD!!

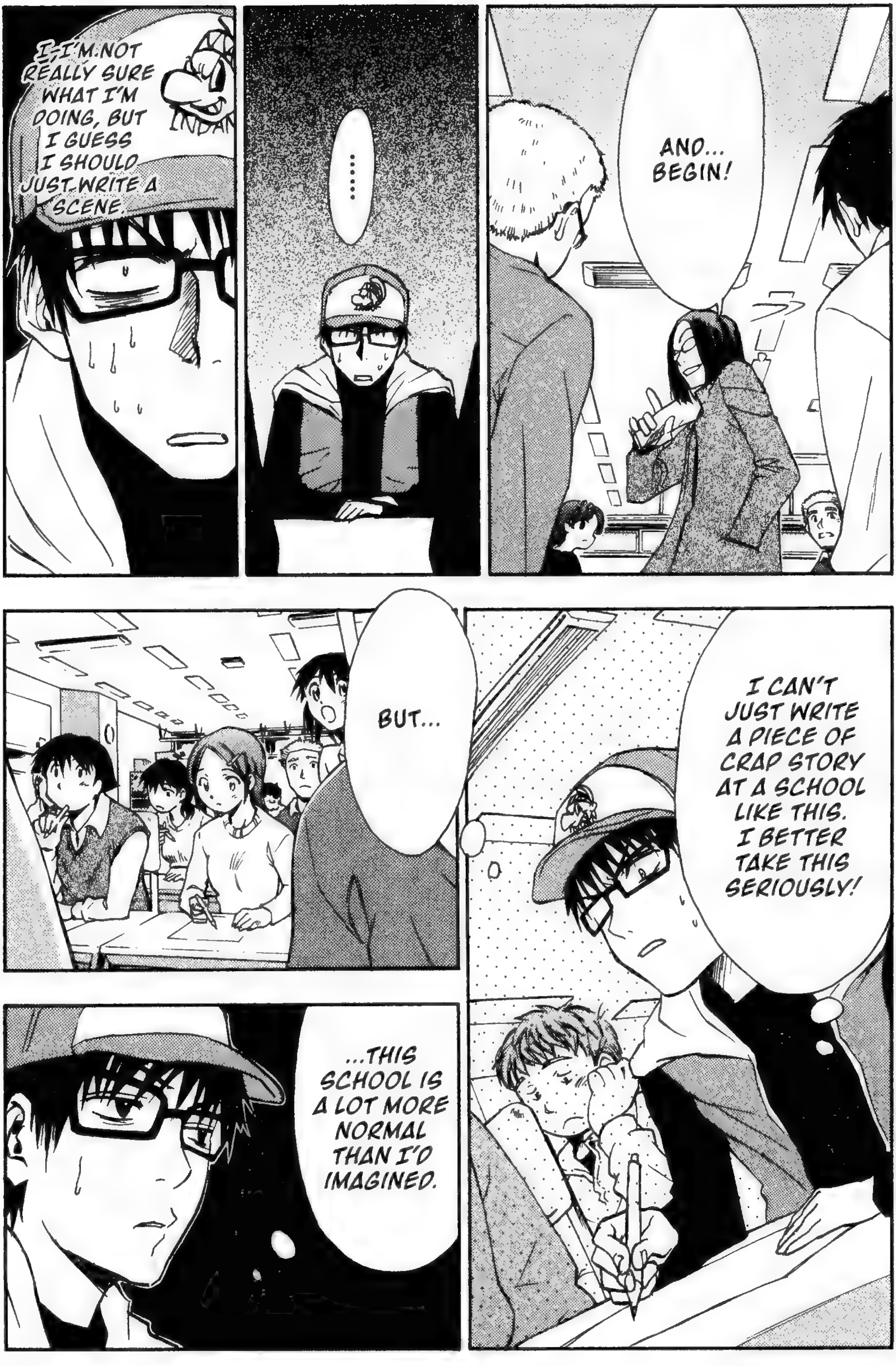
I'm so sorry, Great Yoshizaki-sensei... It's a Shonen Ace conspiracy!

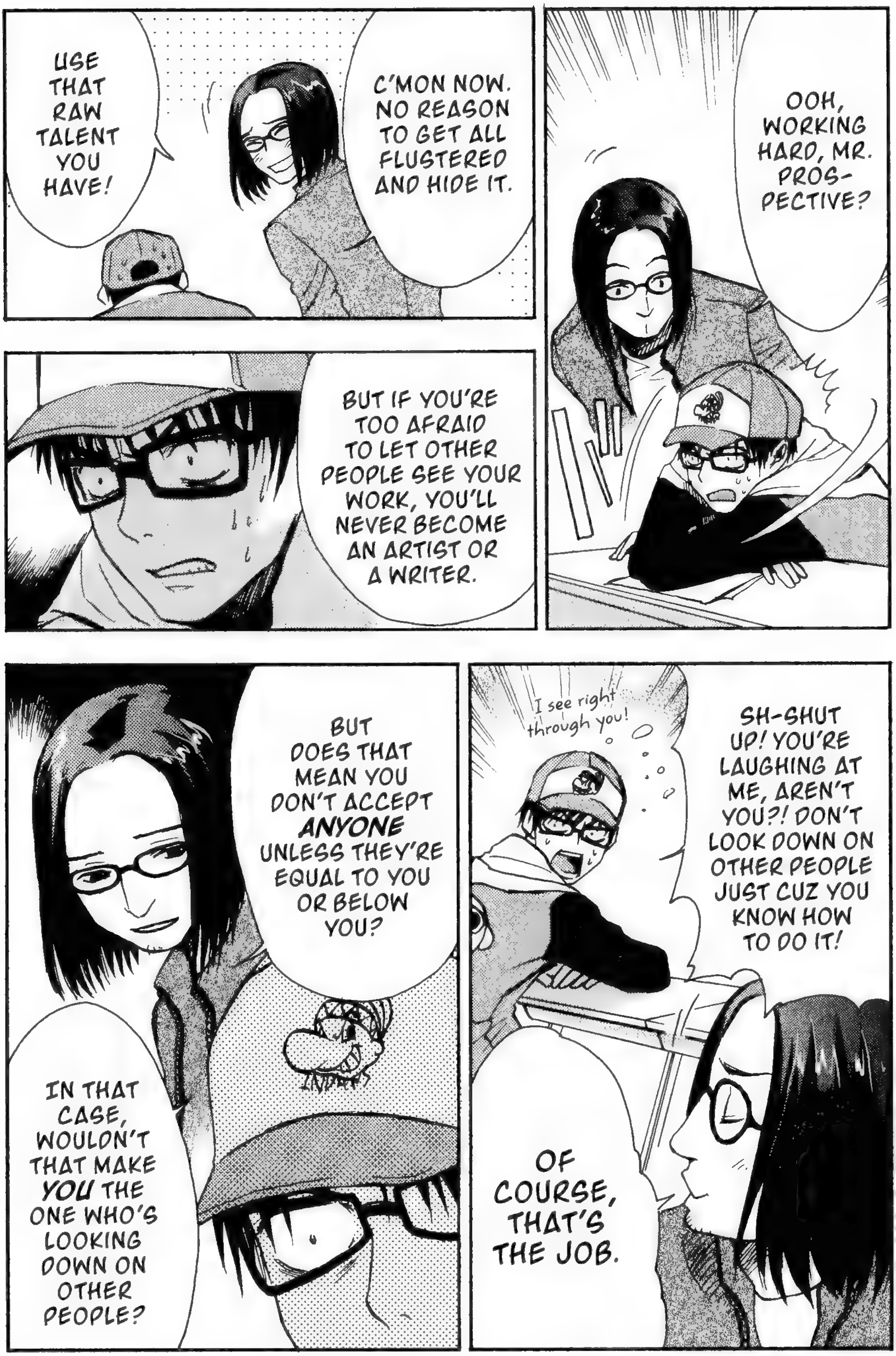

ガ
THADUMP
ドッキン
!
1
I guess I like DOA
...or RD best.
Oh! I like those too!
コッ
POP
...
HA HA HA
Or that other one?
Seems like a rip-off...

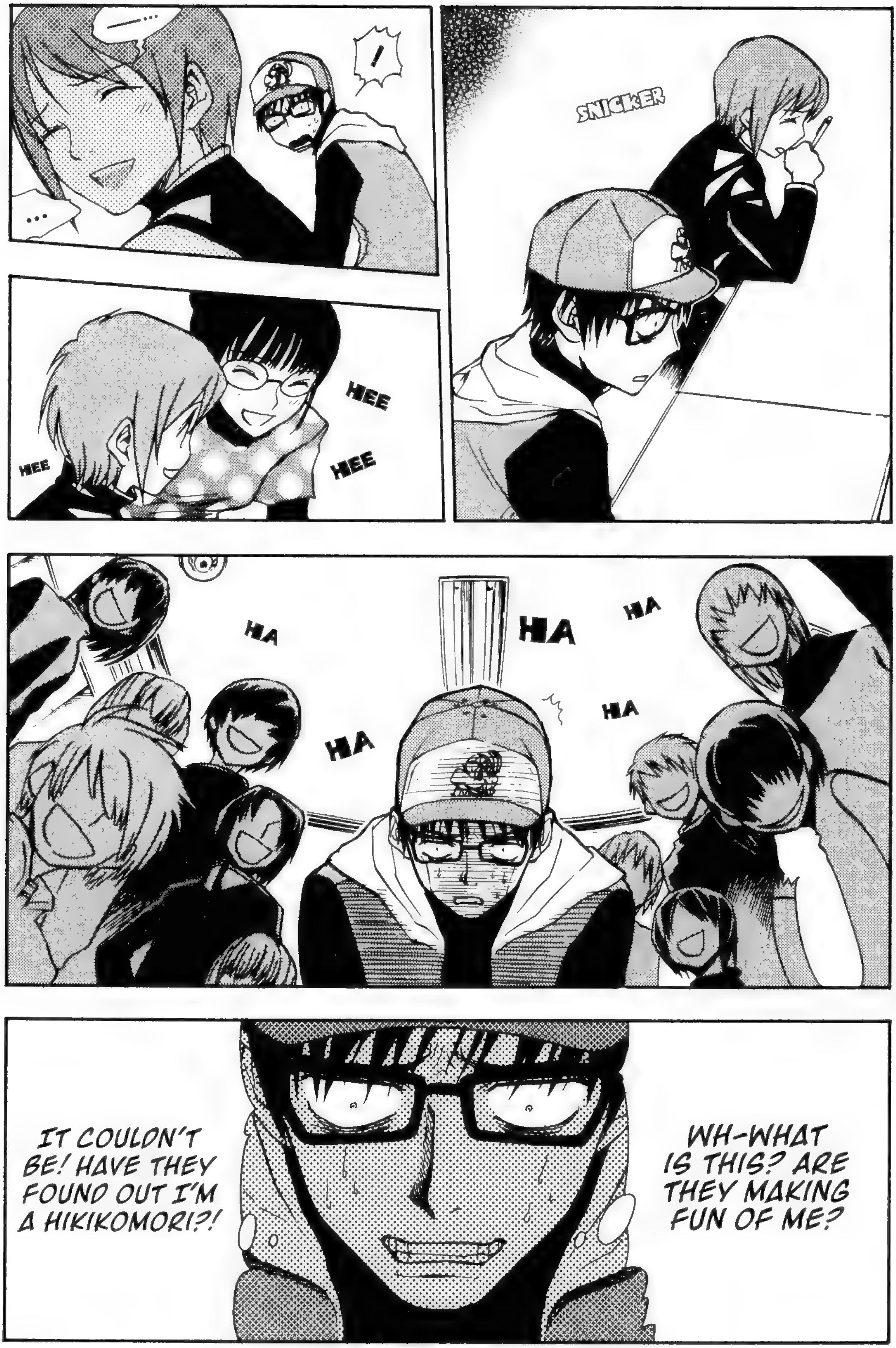

UGH!
WHAT AM I SNEAKING AROUND LIKE THIS FOR? I TOOK MY HAPPY PILLS BEFORE I CAME.
I WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH, DON'T I?
C'MON, MOVE! MOVE, YOU DAMN LEGS!
M-MAYBE I SHOULD JUST GO HOME.
Mm, but... th-there are so many people around.

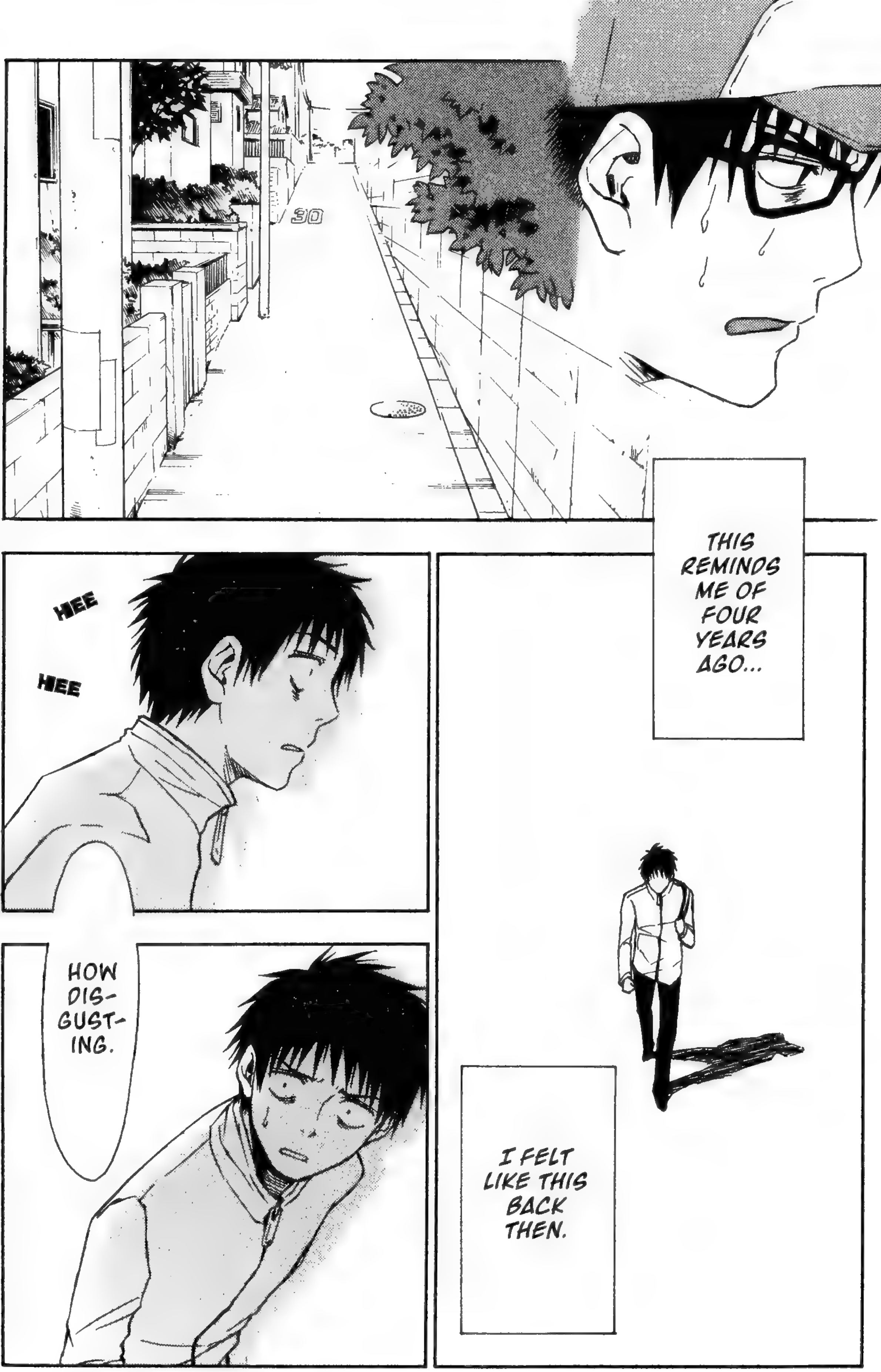

ビクリッ
HUH? HEY, THERE! YOU MUST BE ONE OF THE PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS FOR THE CLASS, HUH?
Er, no...I'm just ...uh ...
QUIT STAMMERING AND ANSWER ME!
EEEK!
AW, FORGET IT. THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME 'TIL CLASS STARTS.
?
?
?
ANYWAY, I'LL SHOW YOU TO THE CLASSROOM. FOLLOW ME!
ガッ
HUH ?!
HUH ?!
HUH?!

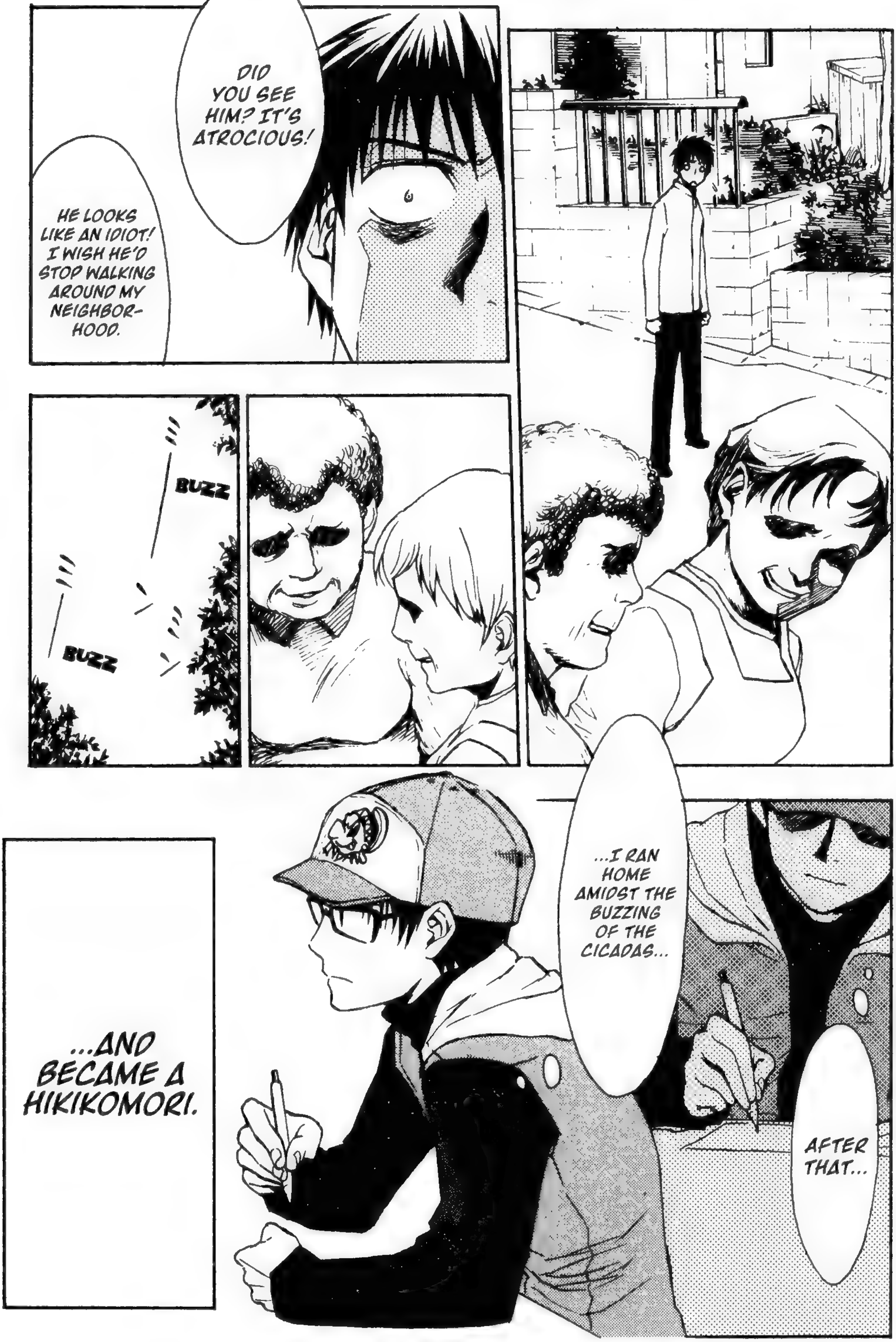

INDIANS
ドーン
TODAY WE'RE GOING TO CONTINUE WITH YESTERDAY'S LESSON ON HOW TO WRITE A STORY.
YOU'RE A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT, SO JUST DO YOUR BEST.
THE REST OF YOU, WRITE SOMETHING THAT CAN BE SHOWN TO THE CLASS!

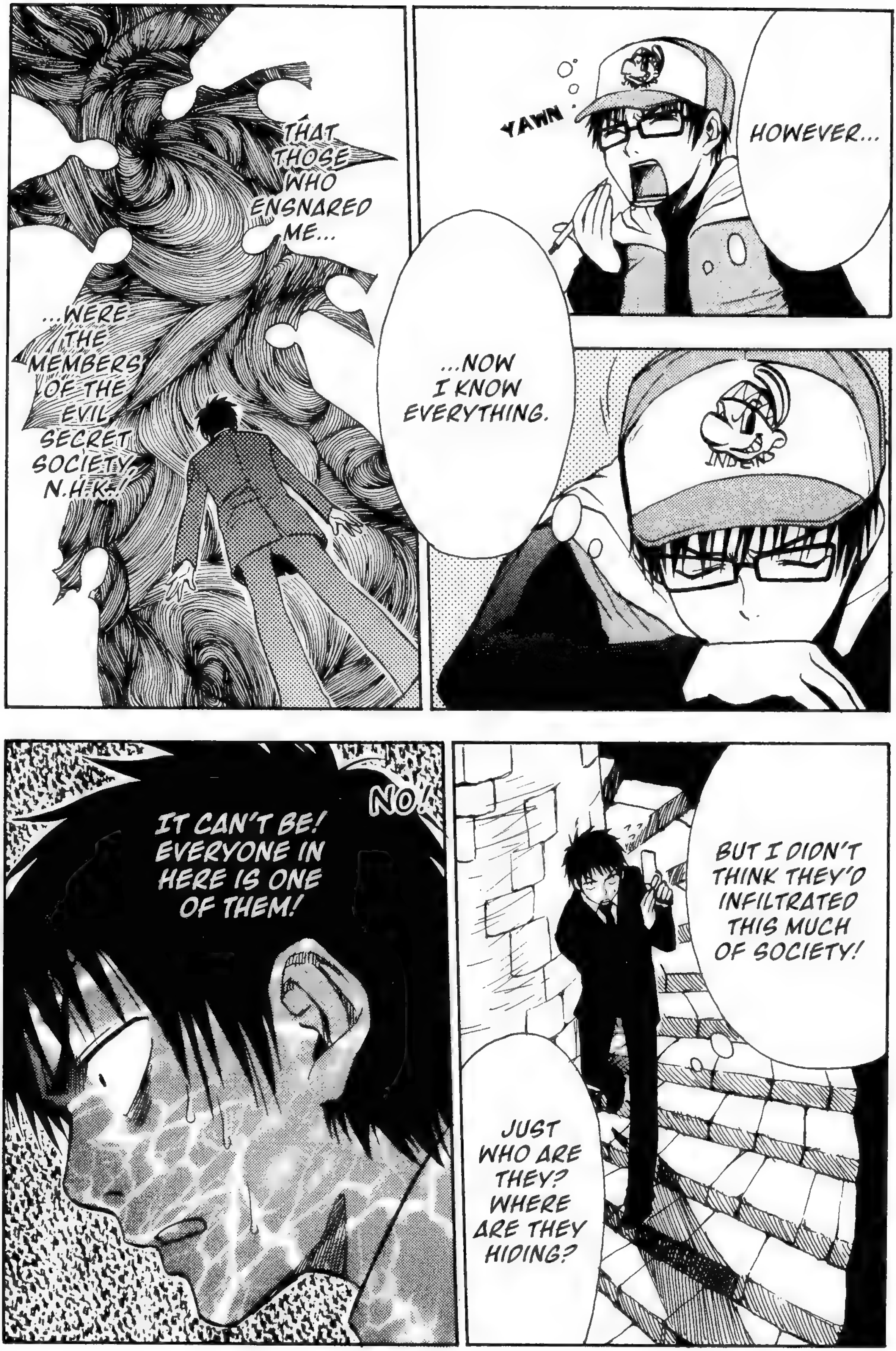

AND... BEGIN!
......
I-I'M NOT REALLY SURE WHAT I'M DOING, BUT I GUESS I SHOULD JUST WRITE A SCENE.
INDAN
BUT...
...THIS SCHOOL IS A LOT MORE NORMAL THAN I'D IMAGINED.
I CAN'T JUST WRITE A PIECE OF CRAP STORY AT A SCHOOL LIKE THIS. I BETTER TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY!

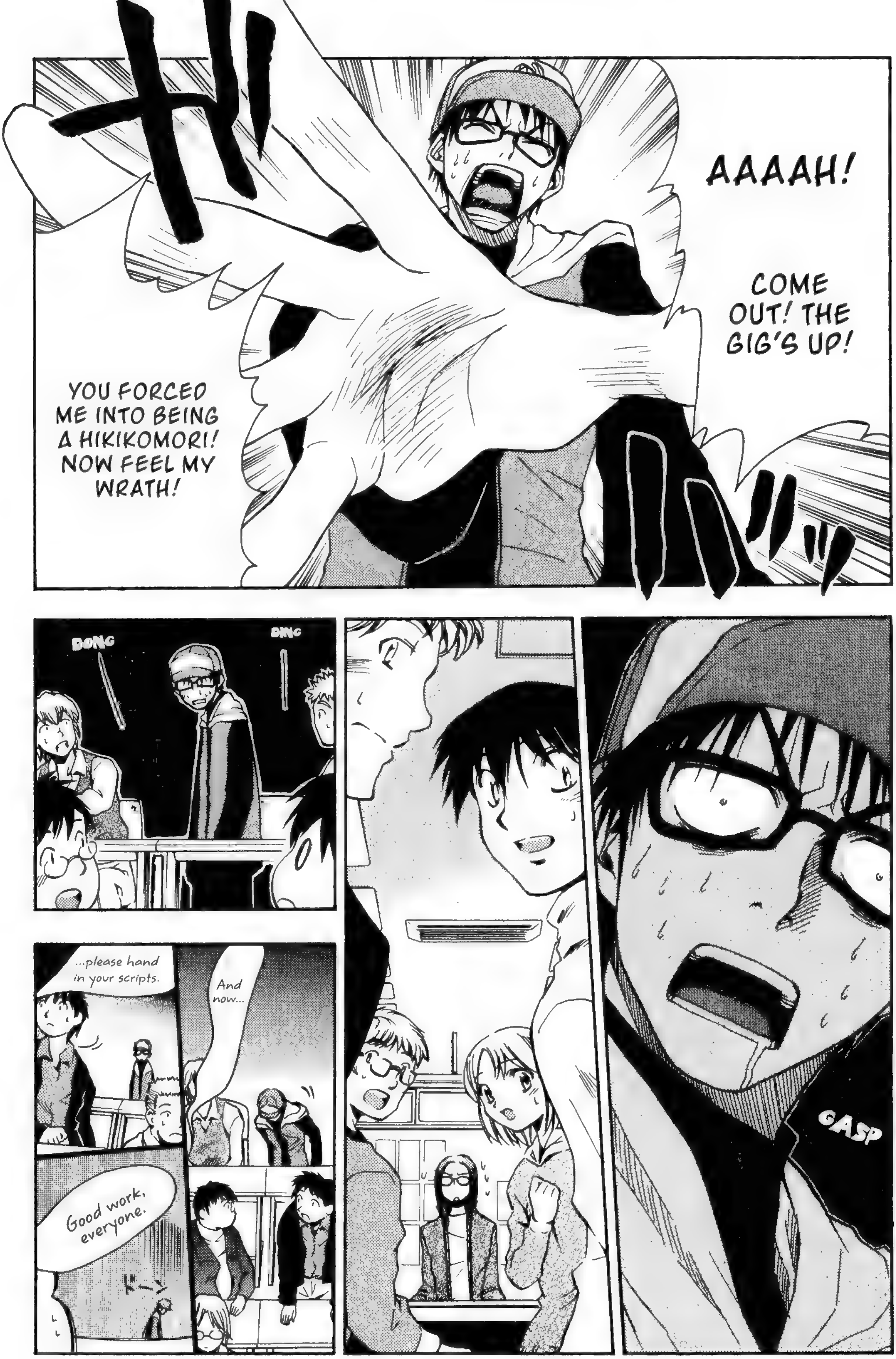

OOH, WORKING HARD, MR. PROSPECTIVE?
C'MON NOW. NO REASON TO GET ALL FLUSTERED AND HIDE IT.
USE THAT RAW TALENT YOU HAVE!
BUT IF YOU'RE TOO AFRAID TO LET OTHER PEOPLE SEE YOUR WORK, YOU'LL NEVER BECOME AN ARTIST OR A WRITER.
SH-SHUT UP! YOU'RE LAUGHING AT ME, AREN'T YOU?! DON'T LOOK DOWN ON OTHER PEOPLE JUST CUZ YOU KNOW HOW TO DO IT!
I see right through you!
OF COURSE, THAT'S THE JOB.
BUT DOES THAT MEAN YOU DON'T ACCEPT ANYONE UNLESS THEY'RE EQUAL TO YOU OR BELOW YOU?
IN THAT CASE, WOULDN'T THAT MAKE YOU THE ONE WHO'S LOOKING DOWN ON OTHER PEOPLE?

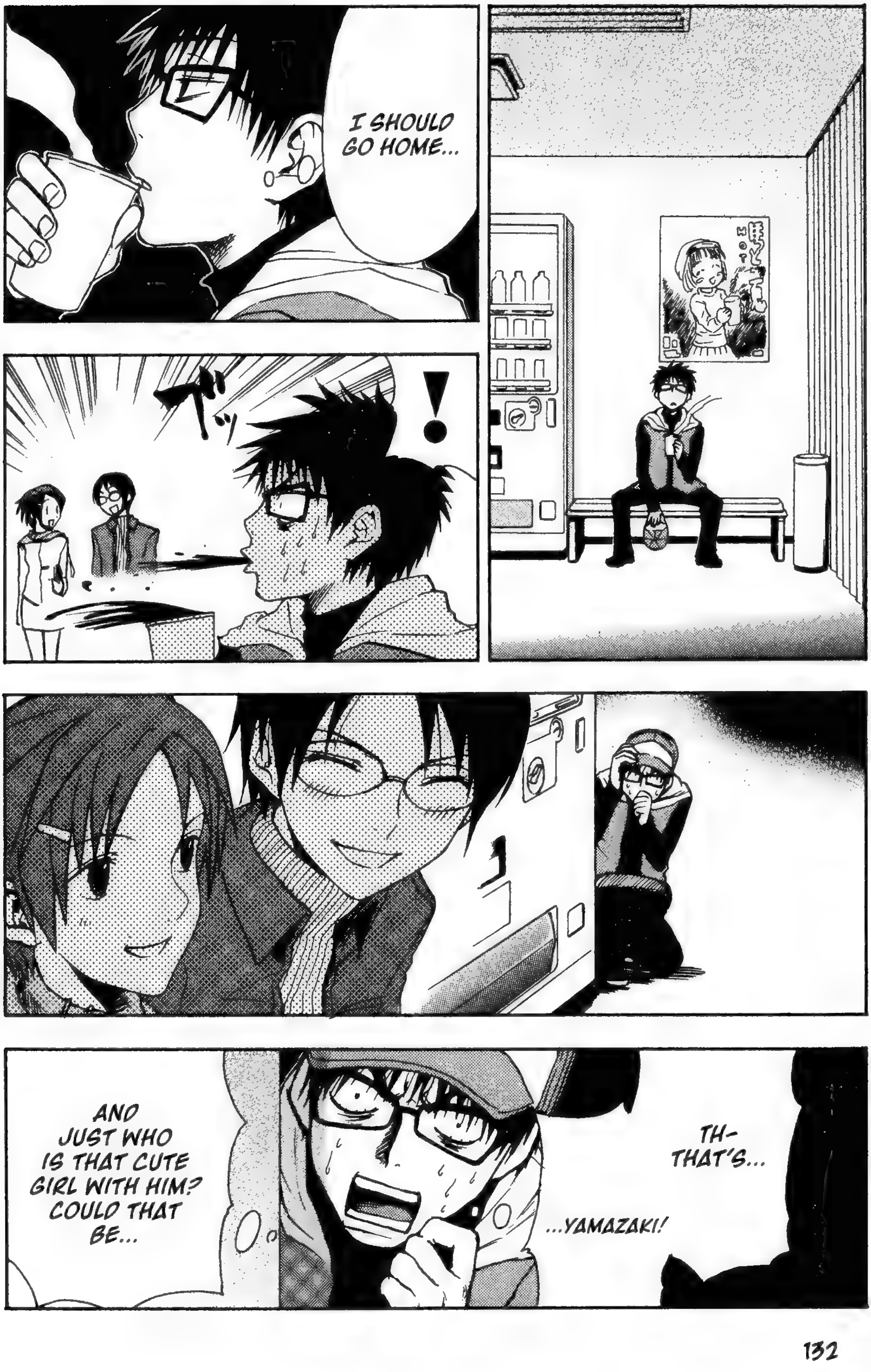

—...
!
...
HEE
HEE
HEE
SNICKER
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
WH-WHAT IS THIS? ARE THEY MAKING FUN OF ME?
IT COULDN'T BE! HAVE THEY FOUND OUT I'M A HIKIKOMORI?!

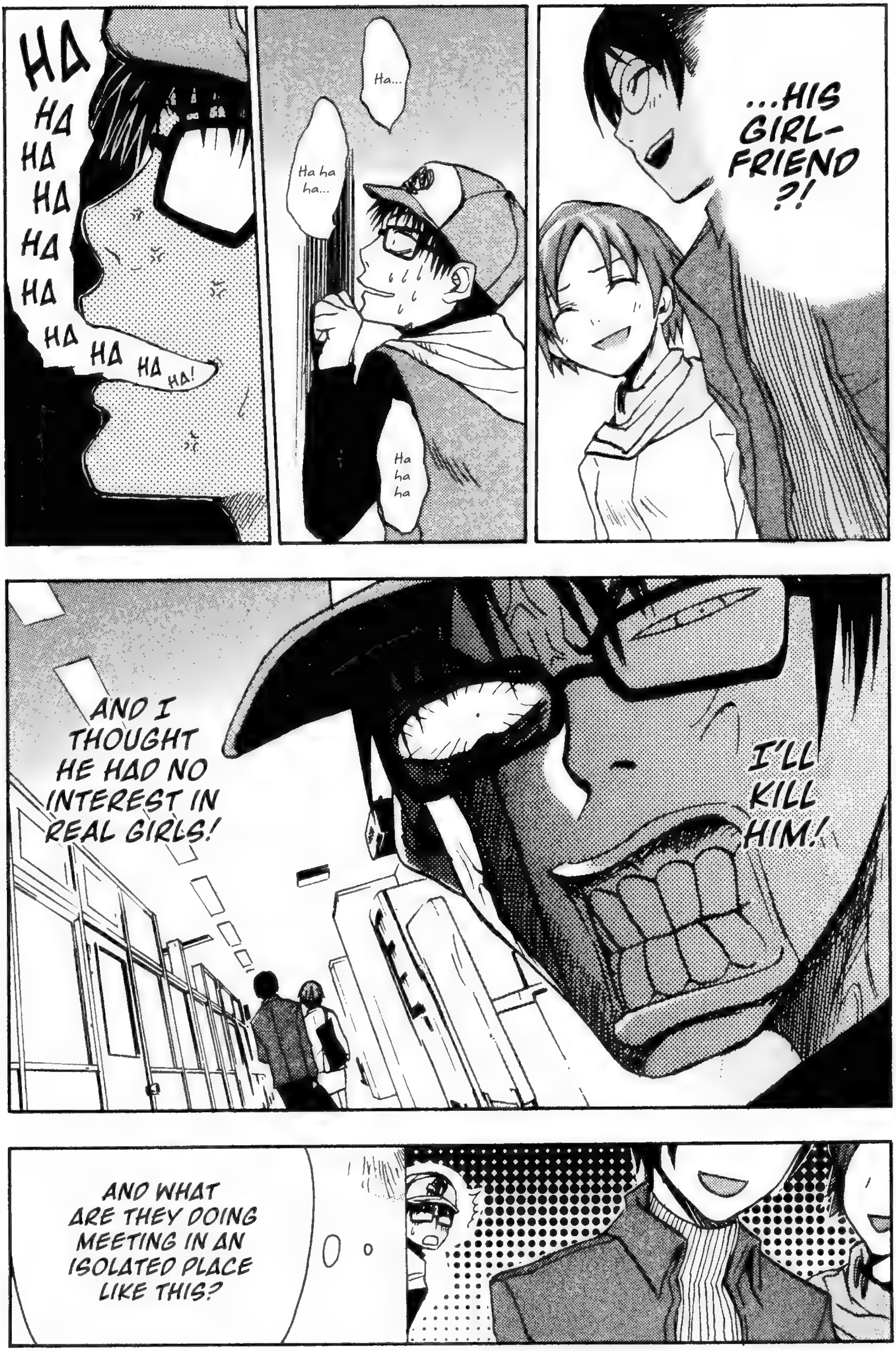

30
THIS REMINDS ME OF FOUR YEARS AGO...
HEE
HEE
HOW DISGUSTING.
I FELT LIKE THIS BACK THEN.

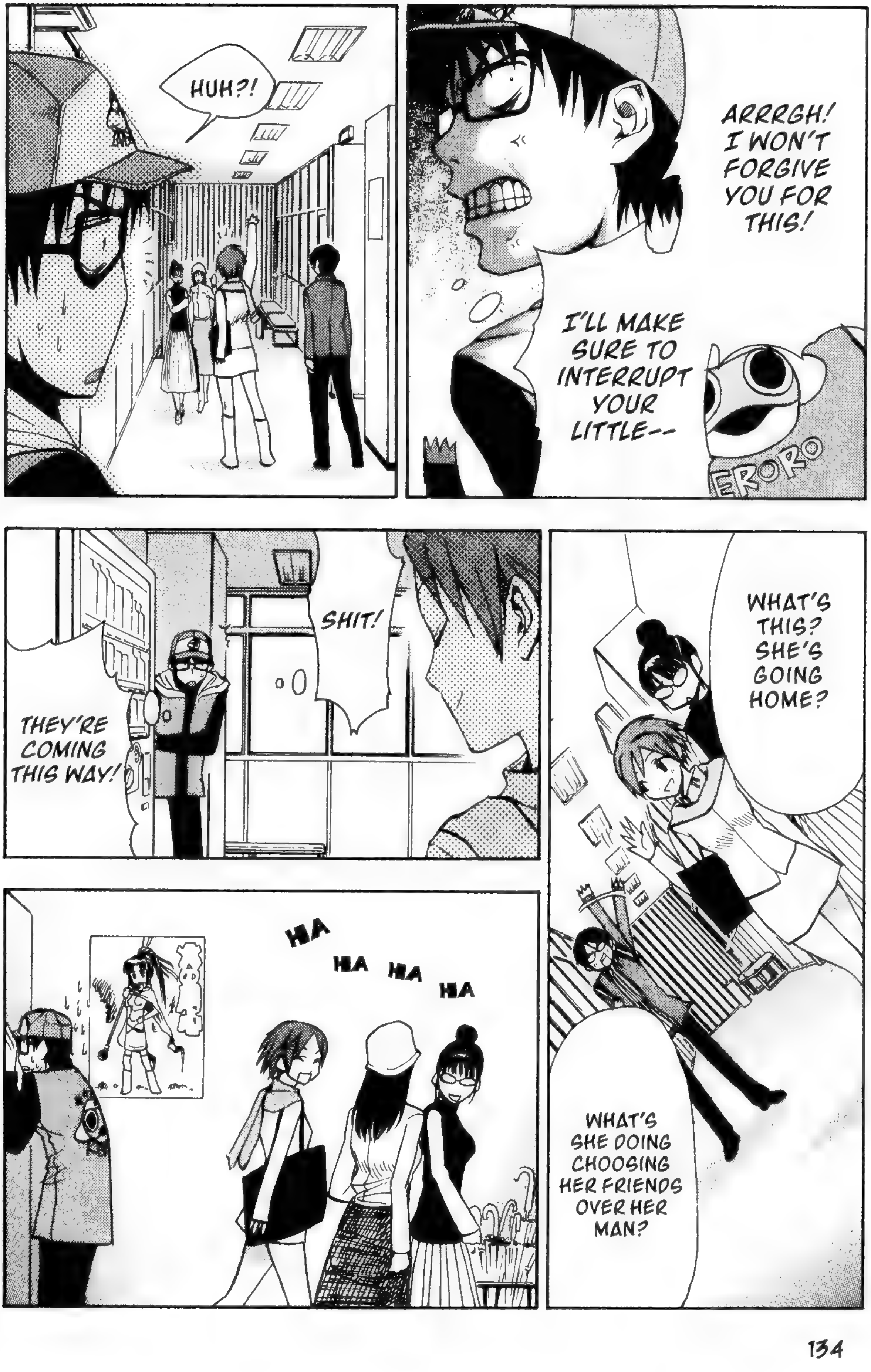

DID YOU SEE HIM? IT'S ATROCIOUS!
HE LOOKS LIKE AN IDIOT! I WISH HE'D STOP WALKING AROUND MY NEIGHBORHOOD.
BUZZ
BUZZ
...I RAN HOME AMIDST THE BUZZING OF THE CICADAS...
AFTER THAT...
...AND BECAME A HIKIKOMORI.

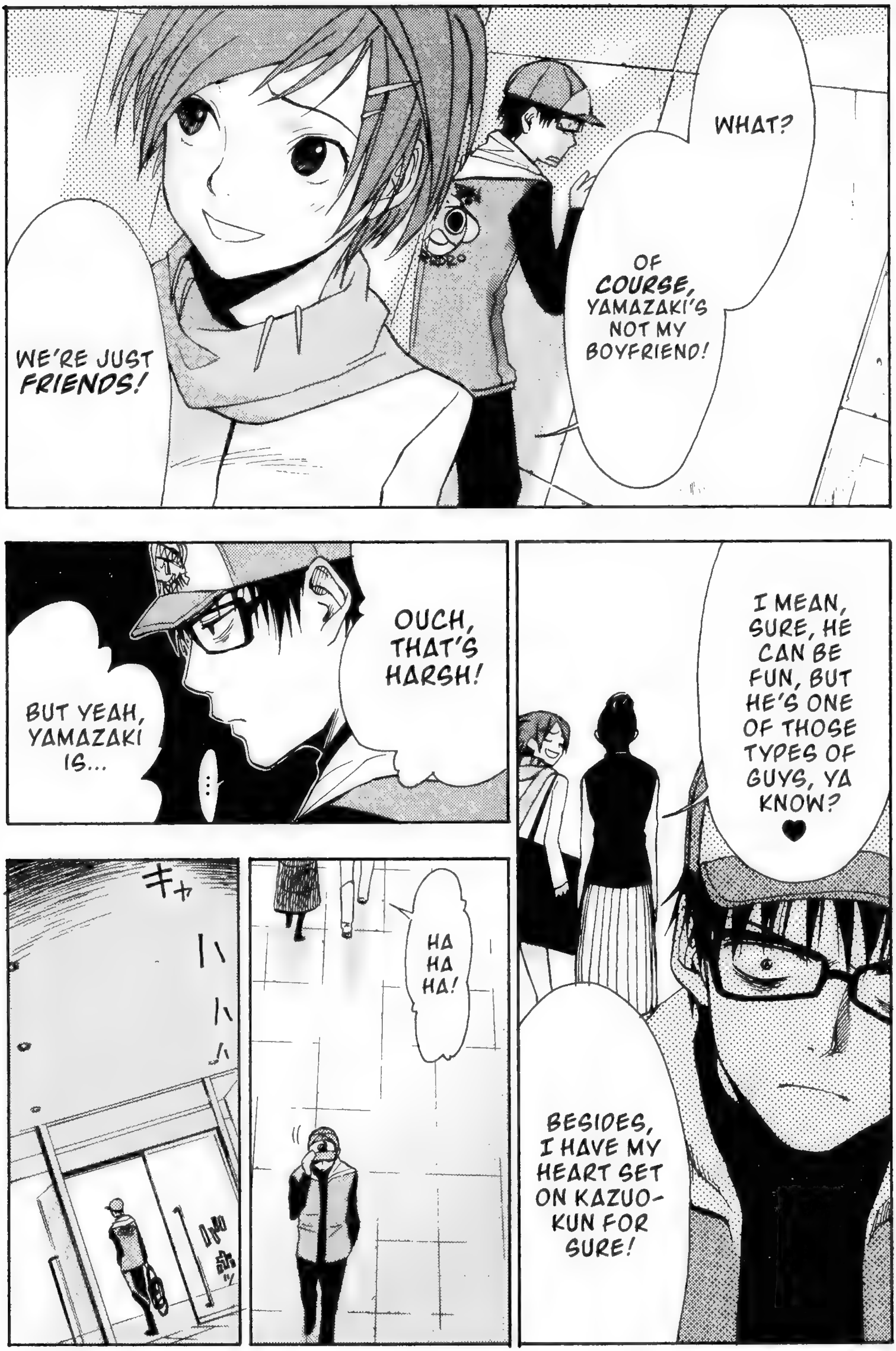

YAWN
HOWEVER...
...NOW I KNOW EVERYTHING.
THAT THOSE WHO ENSNARED ME...
...WERE THE MEMBERS OF THE EVIL SECRET SOCIETY N.H.K.!
BUT I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D INFILTRATED THIS MUCH OF SOCIETY!
JUST WHO ARE THEY? WHERE ARE THEY HIDING?
NO!
IT CAN'T BE! EVERYONE IN HERE IS ONE OF THEM!

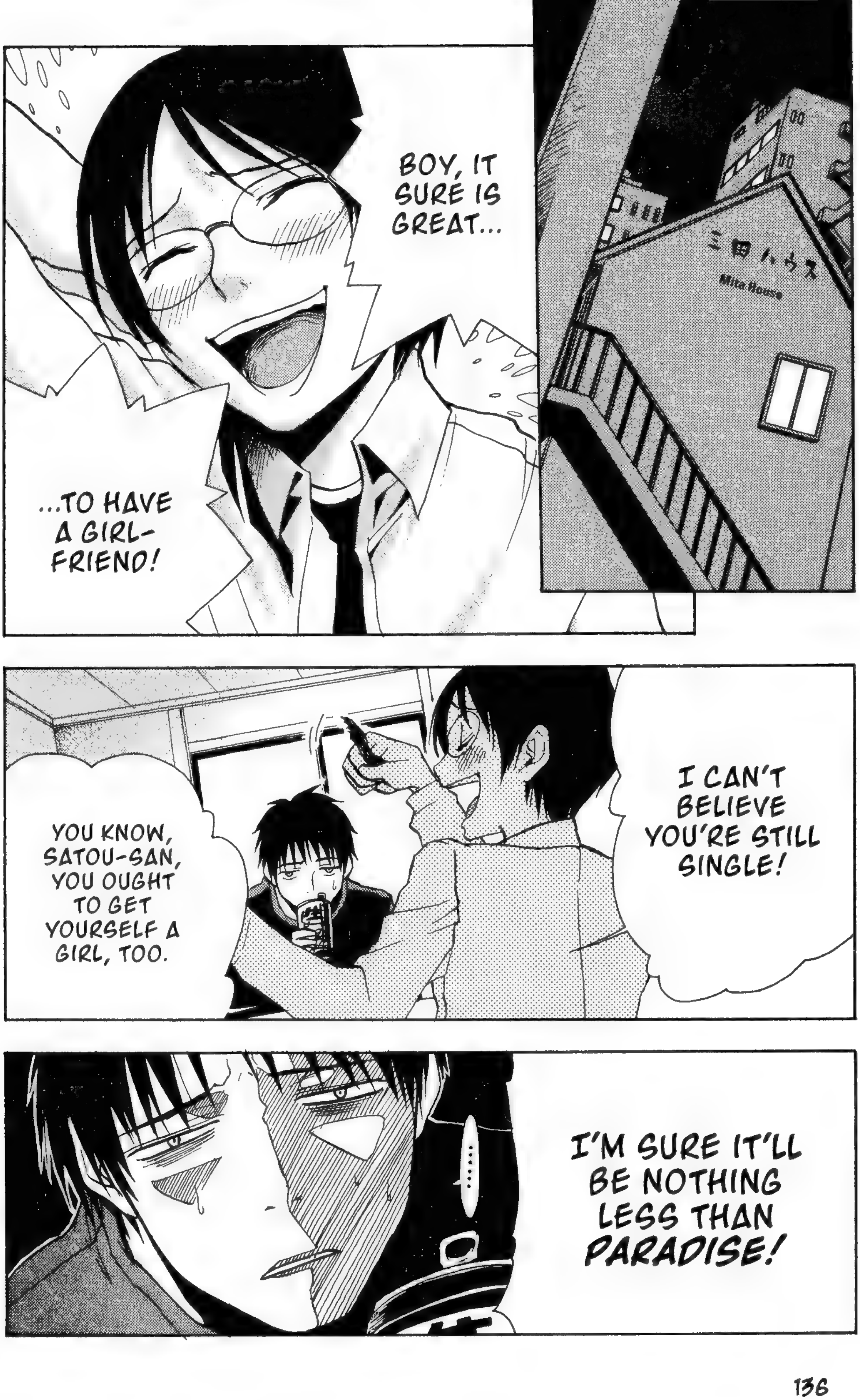

AAAAH!
COME OUT! THE GIG'S UP!
YOU FORCED ME INTO BEING A HIKIKOMORI! NOW FEEL MY WRATH!
GASP
DING
DONG
And now...
...please hand in your scripts.
Good work, everyone.

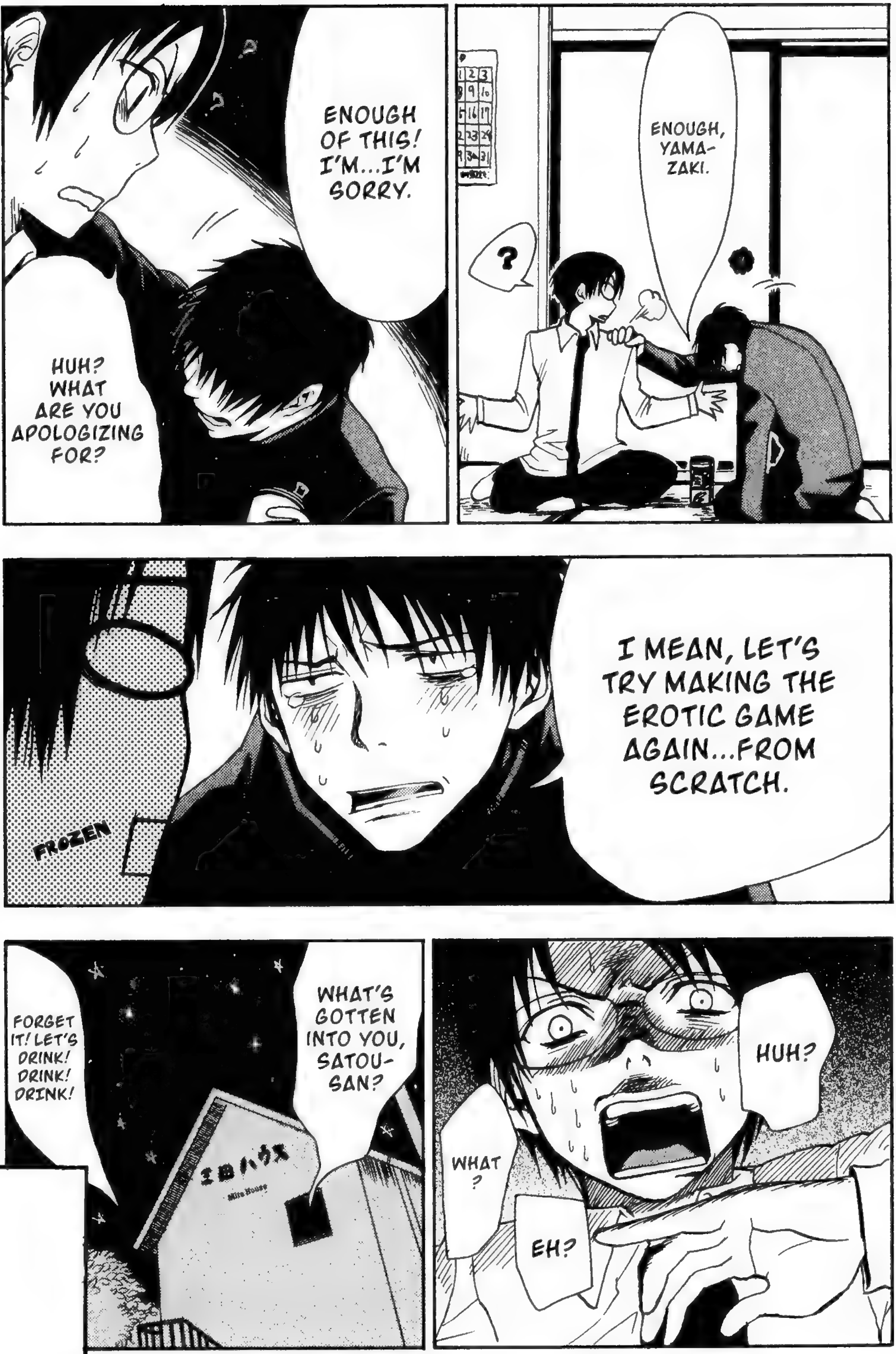

HOT
I SHOULD GO HOME...
ブッ
!
TH-THAT'S...
...YAMAZAKI!
AND JUST WHO IS THAT CUTE GIRL WITH HIM? COULD THAT BE...

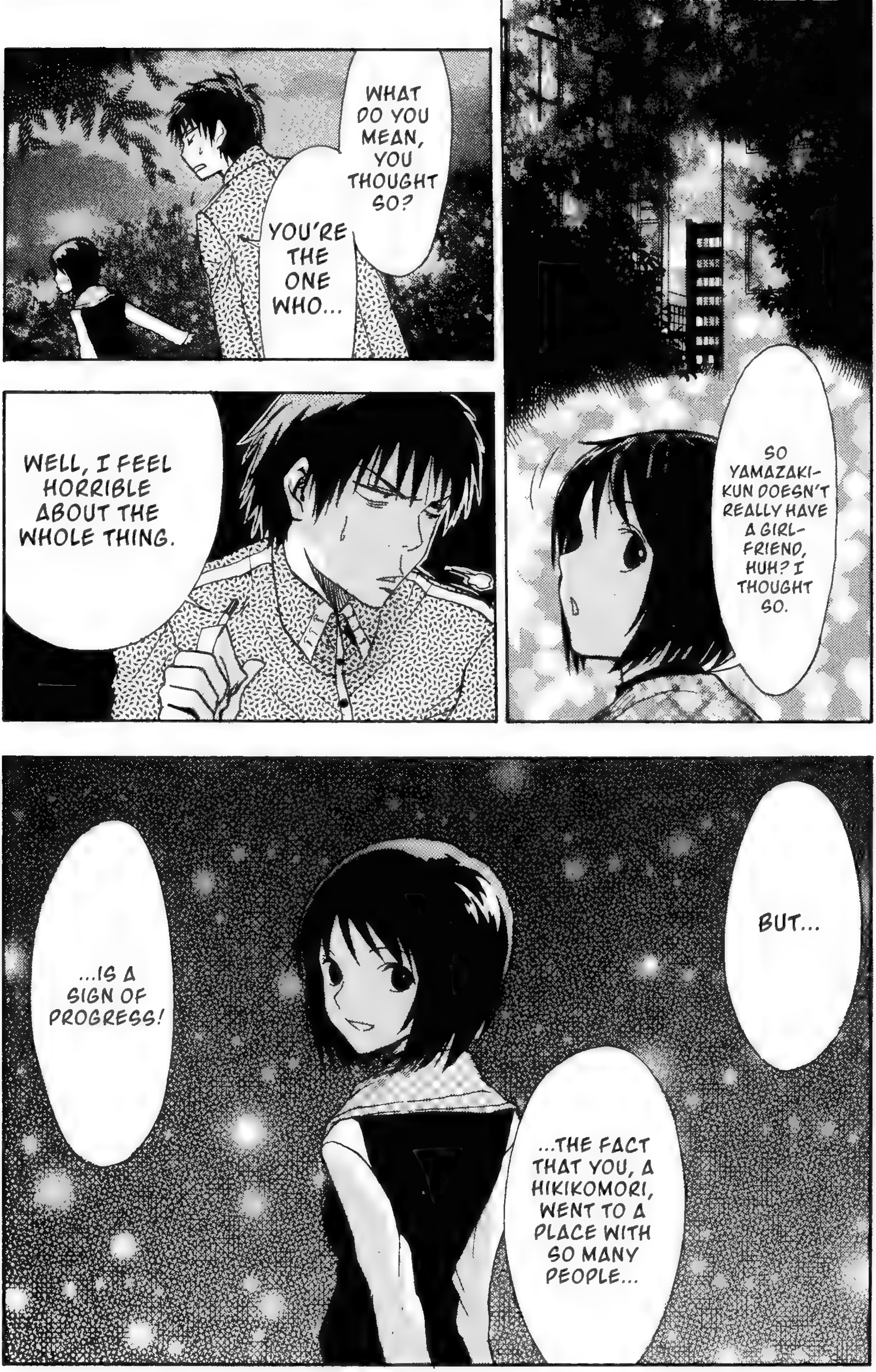

...HIS GIRLFRIEND?!
Ha...
Ha ha ha...
Ha ha ha
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!
I'LL KILL HIM!
AND I THOUGHT HE HAD NO INTEREST IN REAL GIRLS!
AND WHAT ARE THEY DOING MEETING IN AN ISOLATED PLACE LIKE THIS?

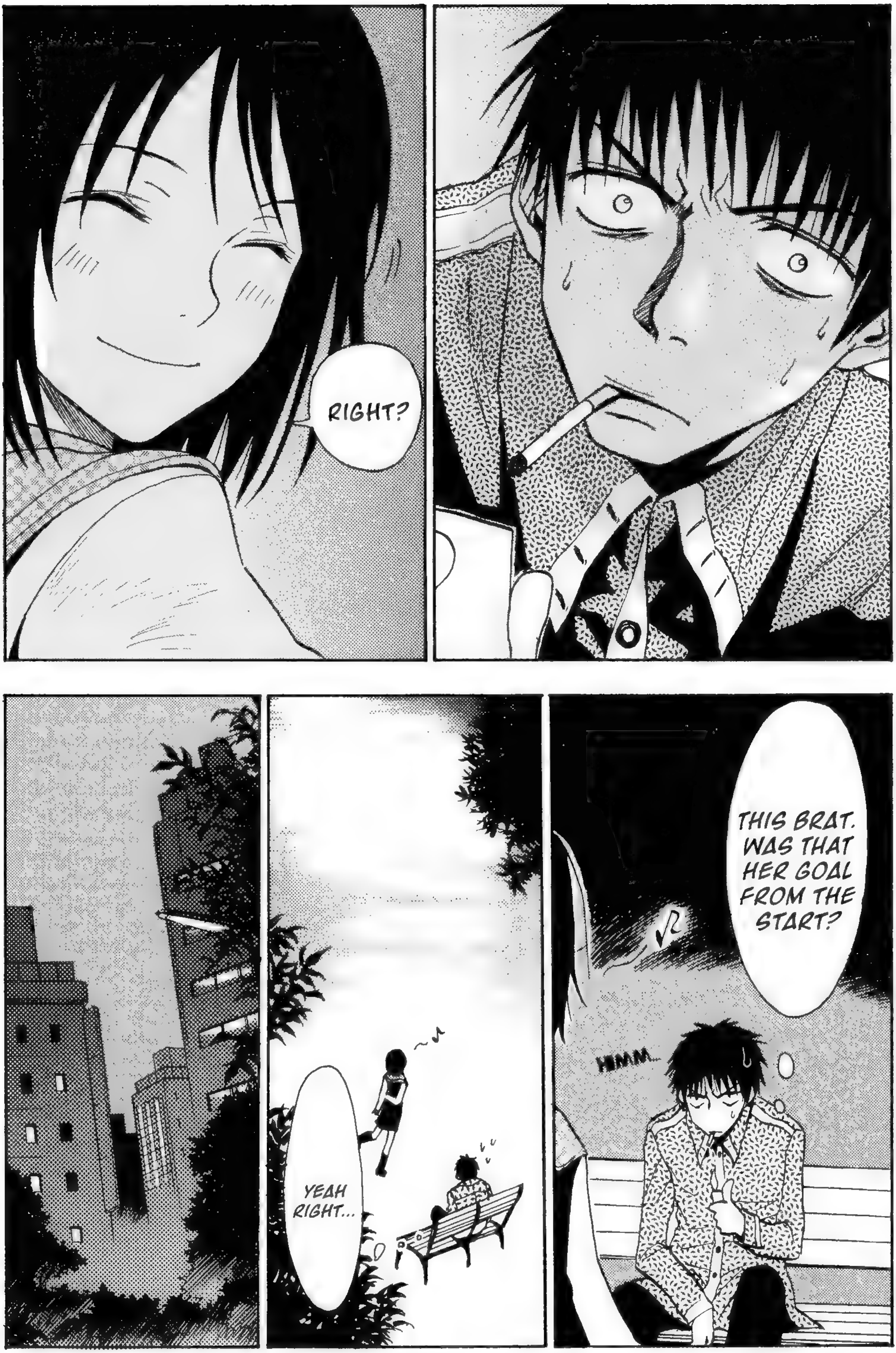

ARRRGH! I WON'T FORGIVE YOU FOR THIS!
I'LL MAKE SURE TO INTERRUPT YOUR LITTLE--
ERORO
HUH?!
WHAT'S THIS? SHE'S GOING HOME?
WHAT'S SHE DOING CHOOSING HER FRIENDS OVER HER MAN?
SHIT!
THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY!
HA HA HA HA

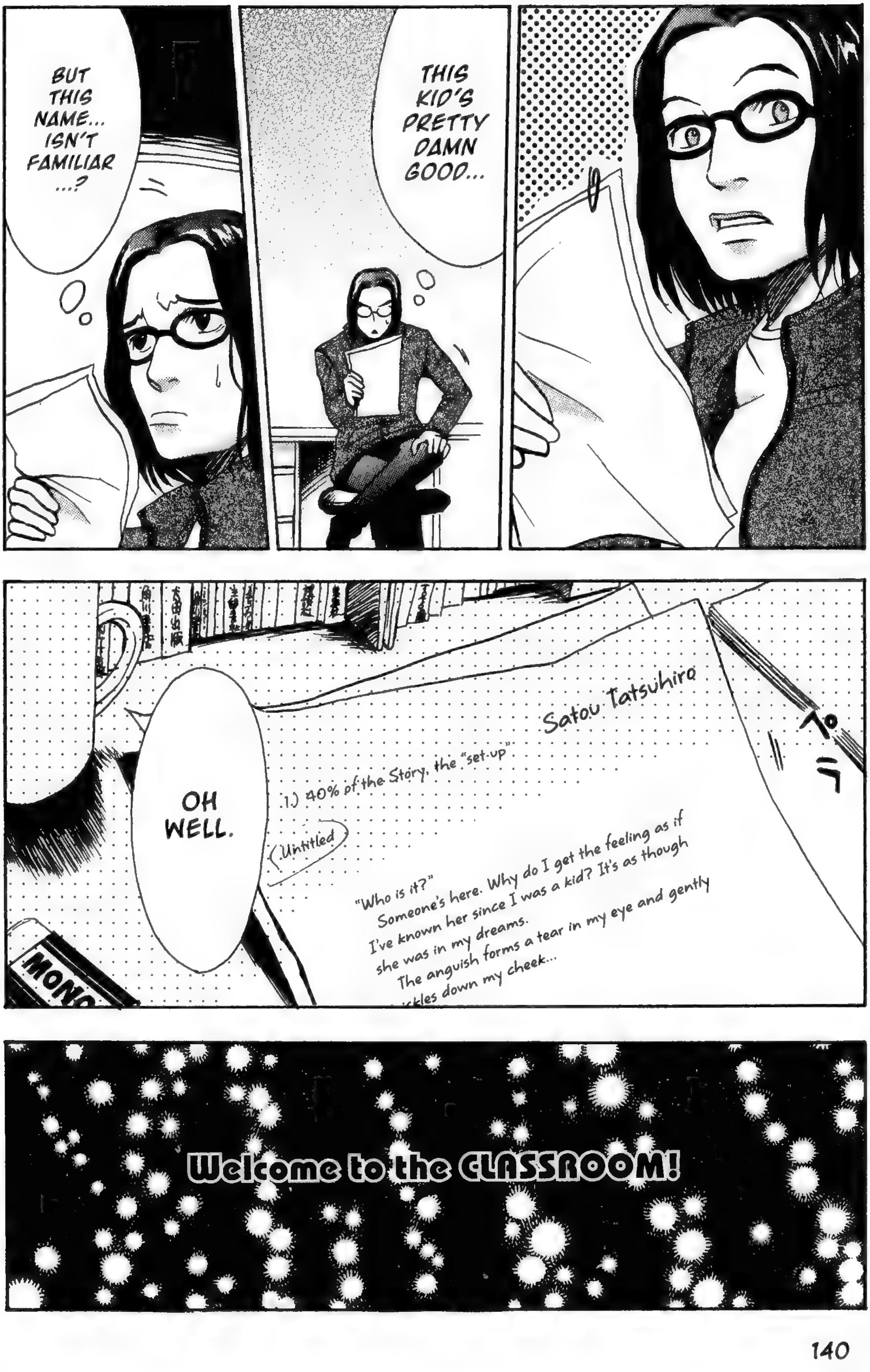

WHAT?
OF COURSE, YAMAZAKI'S NOT MY BOYFRIEND!
WE'RE JUST FRIENDS!
I MEAN, SURE, HE CAN BE FUN, BUT HE'S ONE OF THOSE TYPES OF GUYS, YA KNOW? ♥
BESIDES, I HAVE MY HEART SET ON KAZUO-KUN FOR SURE!
OUCH, THAT'S HARSH!
BUT YEAH, YAMAZAKI IS...
...
HA HA HA!
キャハハハ


三田ハウス
Mita House
BOY, IT SURE IS GREAT...
...TO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE STILL SINGLE!
YOU KNOW, SATOU-SAN, YOU OUGHT TO GET YOURSELF A GIRL, TOO.
I'M SURE IT'LL BE NOTHING LESS THAN *PARADISE!*
......


ENOUGH, YAMAZAKI.
?
ENOUGH OF THIS! I'M...I'M SORRY.
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU APOLOGIZING FOR?
I MEAN, LET'S TRY MAKING THE EROTIC GAME AGAIN...FROM SCRATCH.
FROZEN
HUH?
WHAT?
EH?
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, SATOU-SAN?
FORGET IT! LET'S DRINK! DRINK! DRINK!
エロハウス


SO YAMAZAKI-KUN DOESN'T REALLY HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, HUH? I THOUGHT SO.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU THOUGHT SO?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO...
WELL, I FEEL HORRIBLE ABOUT THE WHOLE THING.
BUT...
...THE FACT THAT YOU, A HIKIKOMORI, WENT TO A PLACE WITH SO MANY PEOPLE...
...IS A SIGN OF PROGRESS!


RIGHT?
THIS BRAT. WAS THAT HER GOAL FROM THE START?
HMM...
YEAH RIGHT...

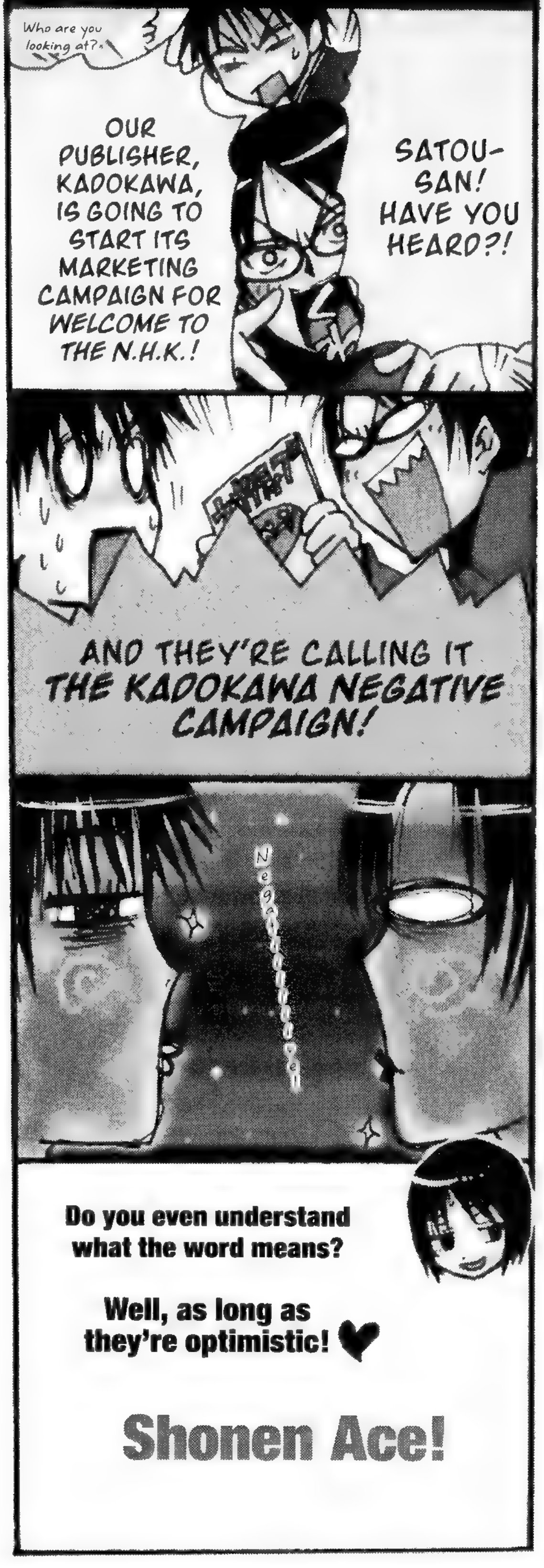

THIS KID'S PRETTY DAMN GOOD...
BUT THIS NAME... ISN'T FAMILIAR ...?
OH WELL.
Satou Tatsuhiro
1.) 40% of the Story, the "set-up"
Untitled
"Who is it?"
Someone's here. Why do I get the feeling as if
I've known her since I was a kid? It's as though
she was in my dreams.
The anguish forms a tear in my eye and gently
ckles down my cheek...
MONO
Welcome to the CLASSROOM!

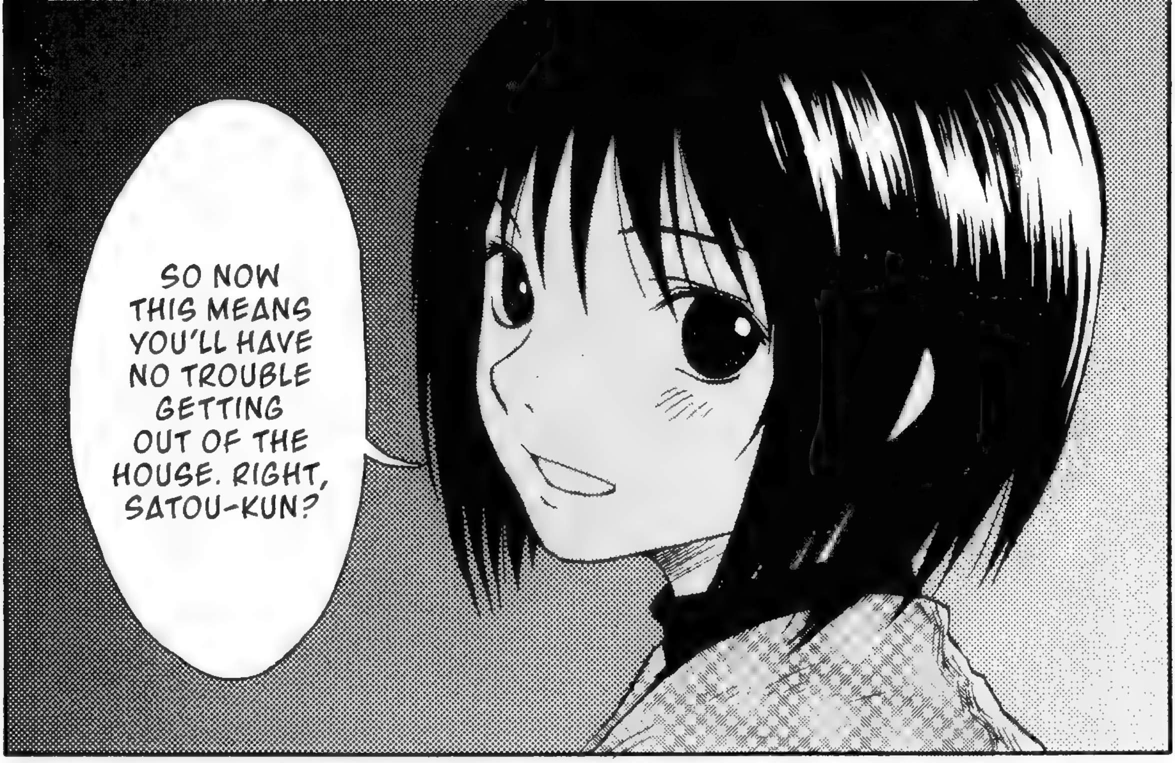
Welcome to the N.H.K.

#04 Welcome to the CLASSROOM!

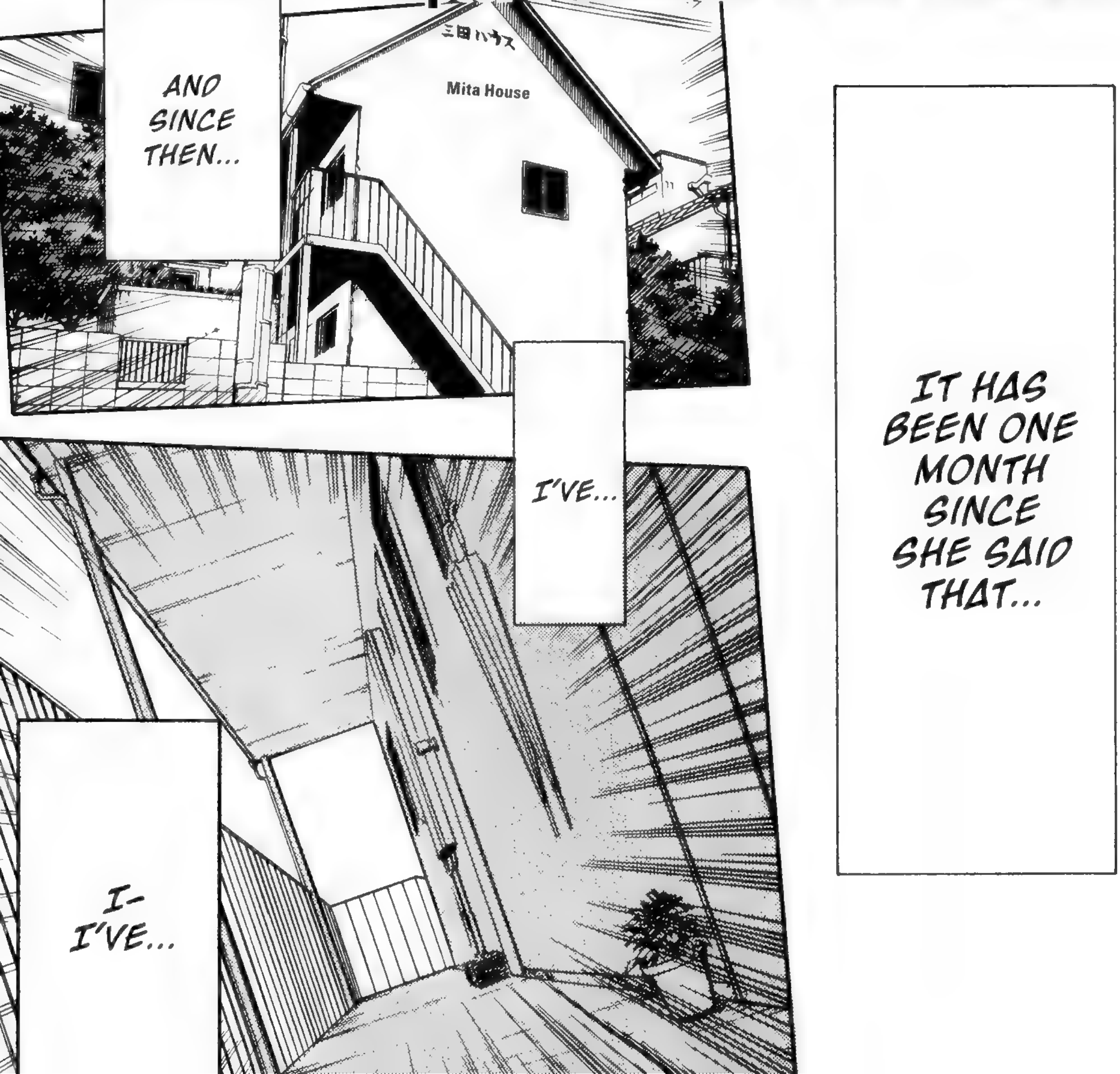
CONTINUED IN EPISODE #05...

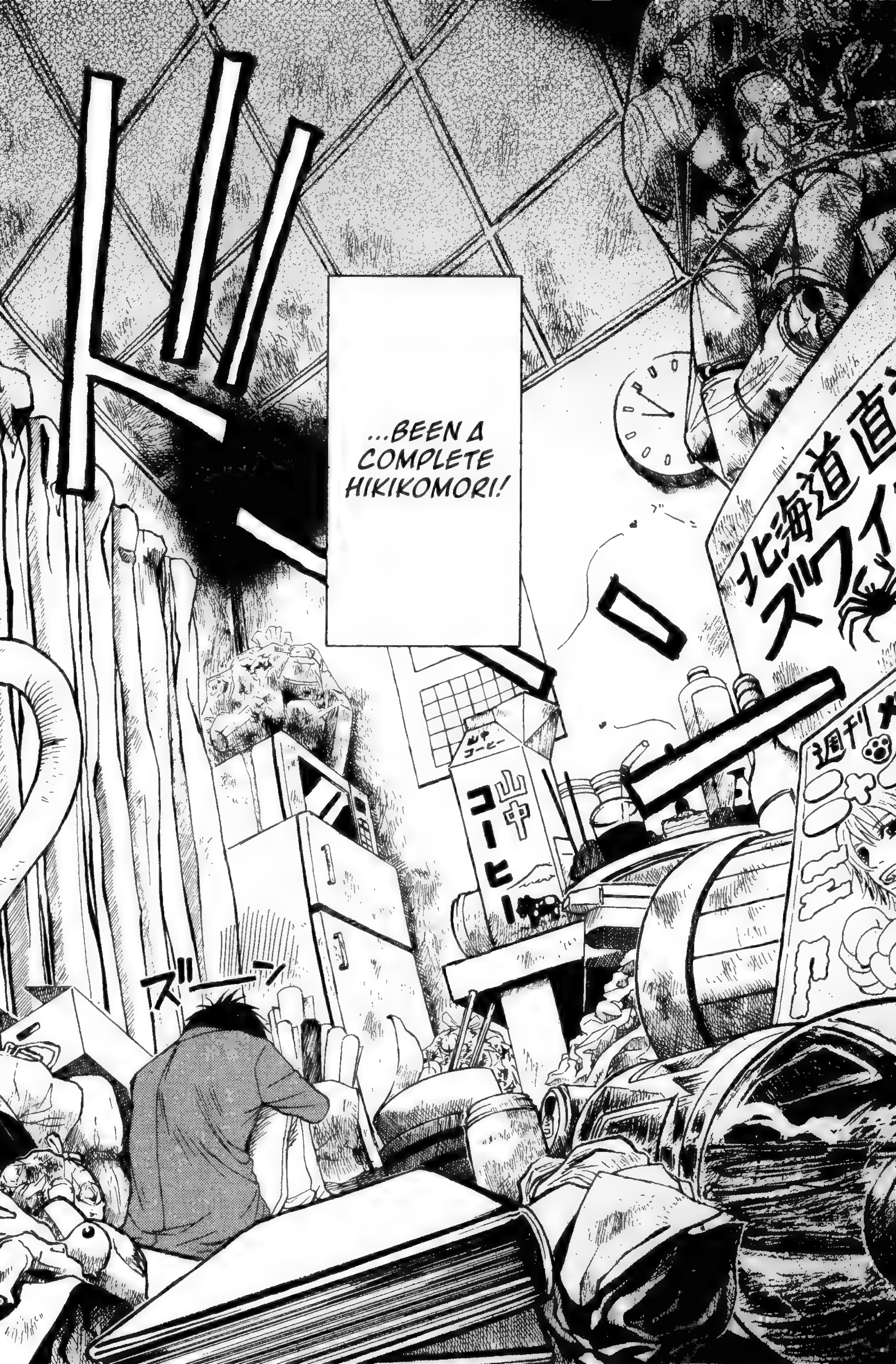
Welcome to the N.H.K! 4-Panel Comic — #4

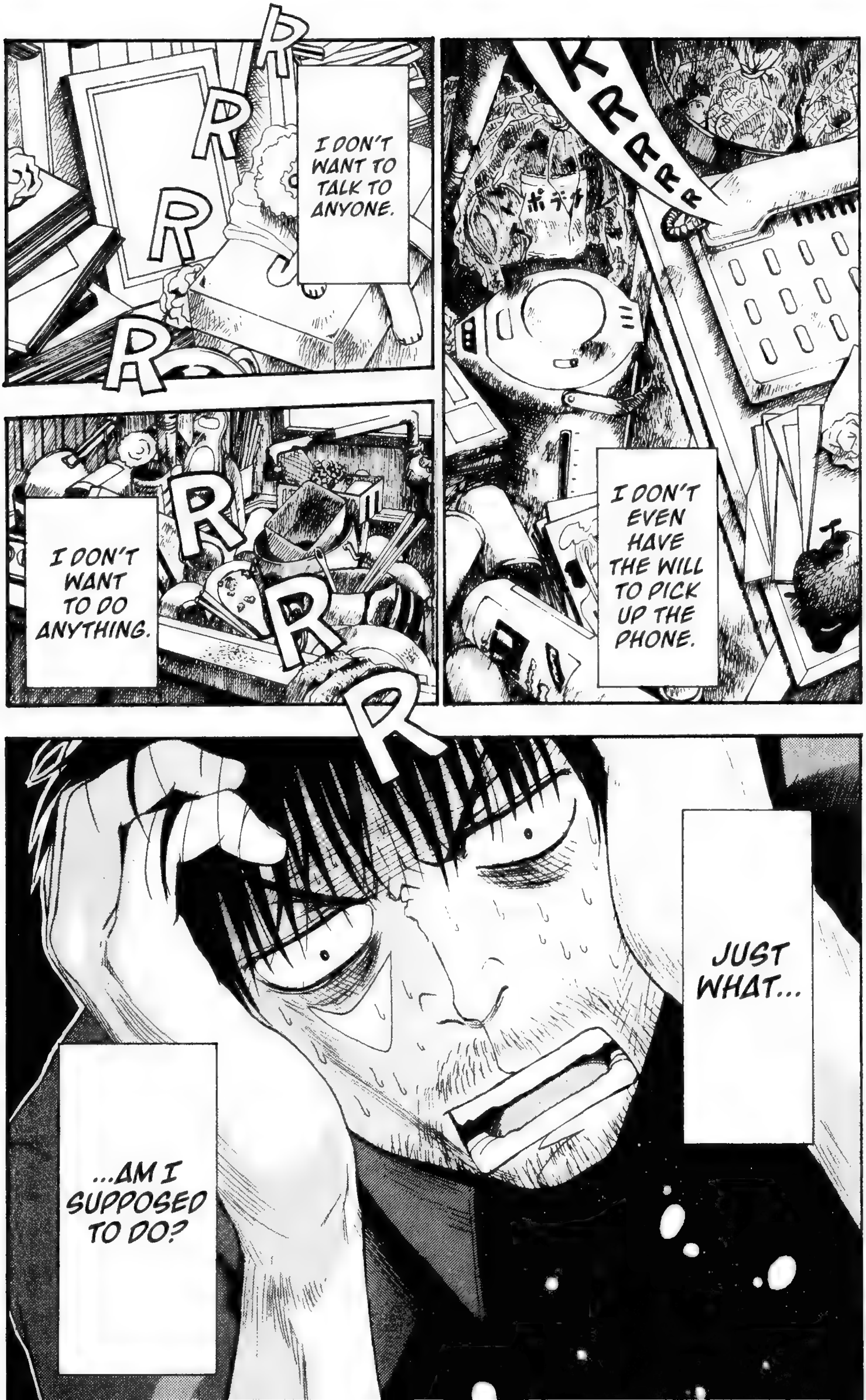

SATOU-SAN! HAVE YOU HEARD?!
OUR PUBLISHER, KADOKAWA, IS GOING TO START ITS MARKETING CAMPAIGN FOR *WELCOME TO THE N.H.K.!*
Who are you looking at?
AND THEY'RE CALLING IT *THE KADOKAWA NEGATIVE CAMPAIGN!*
Negatiiiiiive!
Do you even understand what the word means?
Well, as long as they're optimistic! ♥
Shonen Ace!

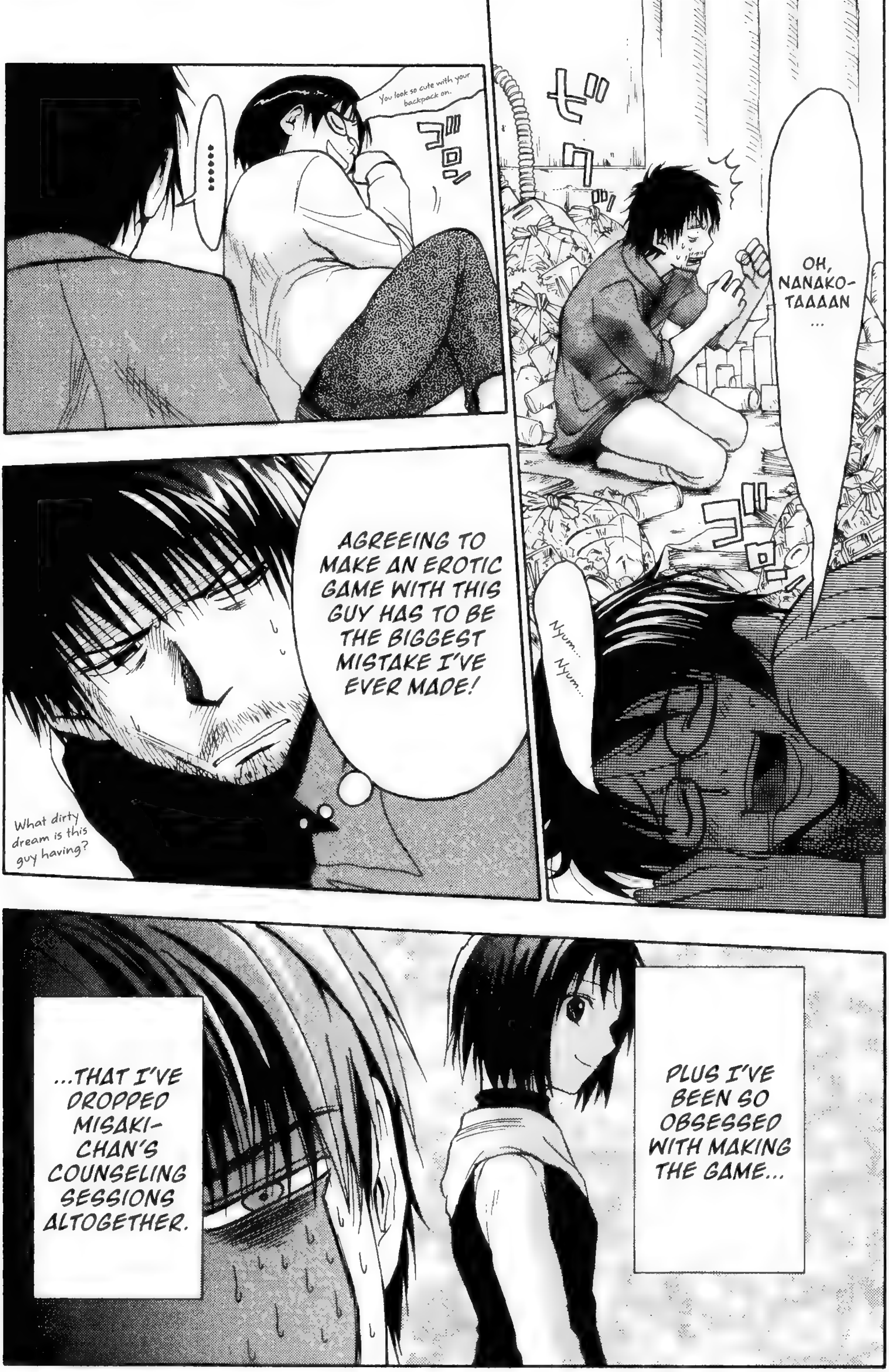

SO NOW THIS MEANS YOU'LL HAVE NO TROUBLE GETTING OUT OF THE HOUSE. RIGHT, SATOU-KUN?

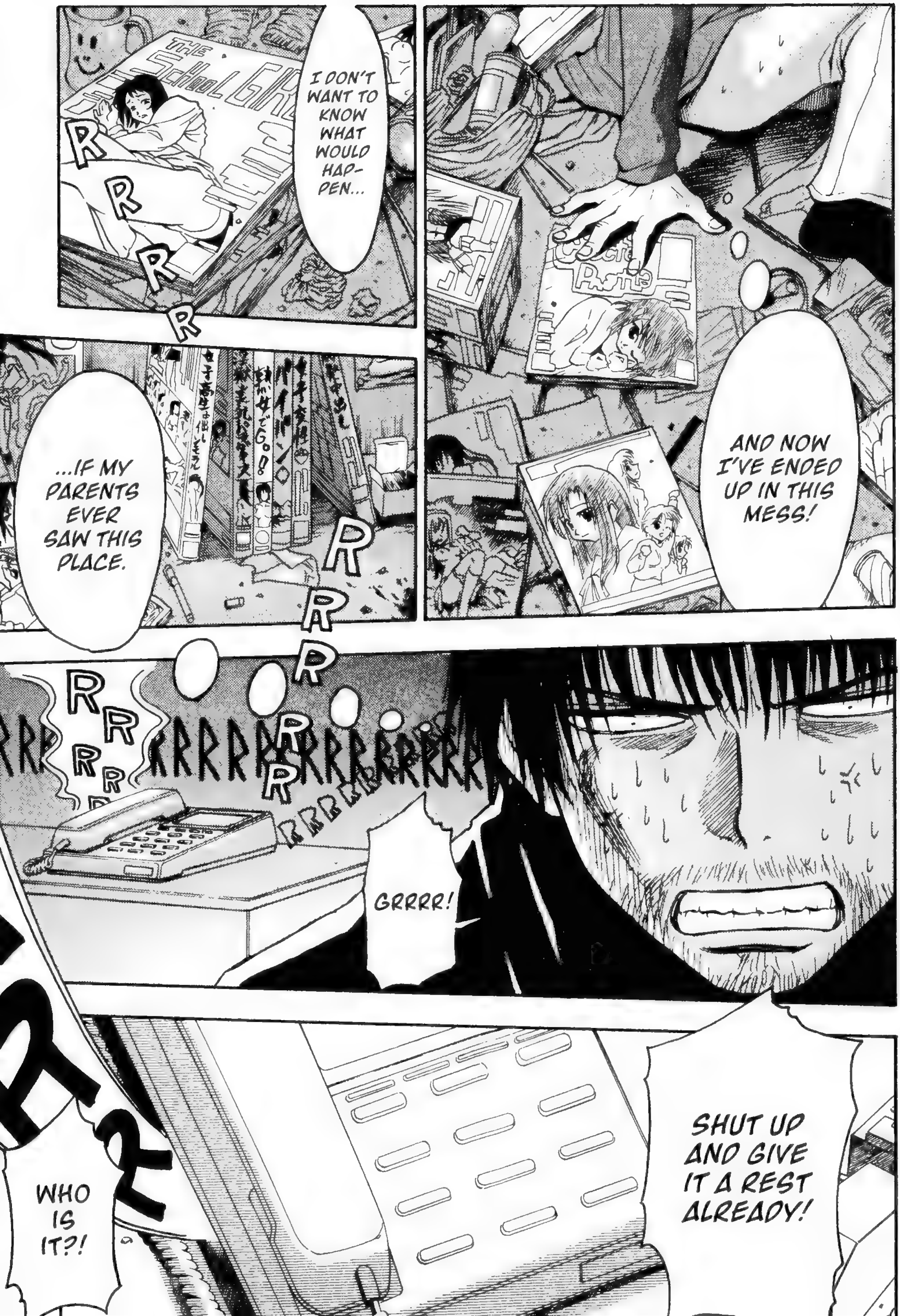
Chapter 5 Welcome to the COMPANY!

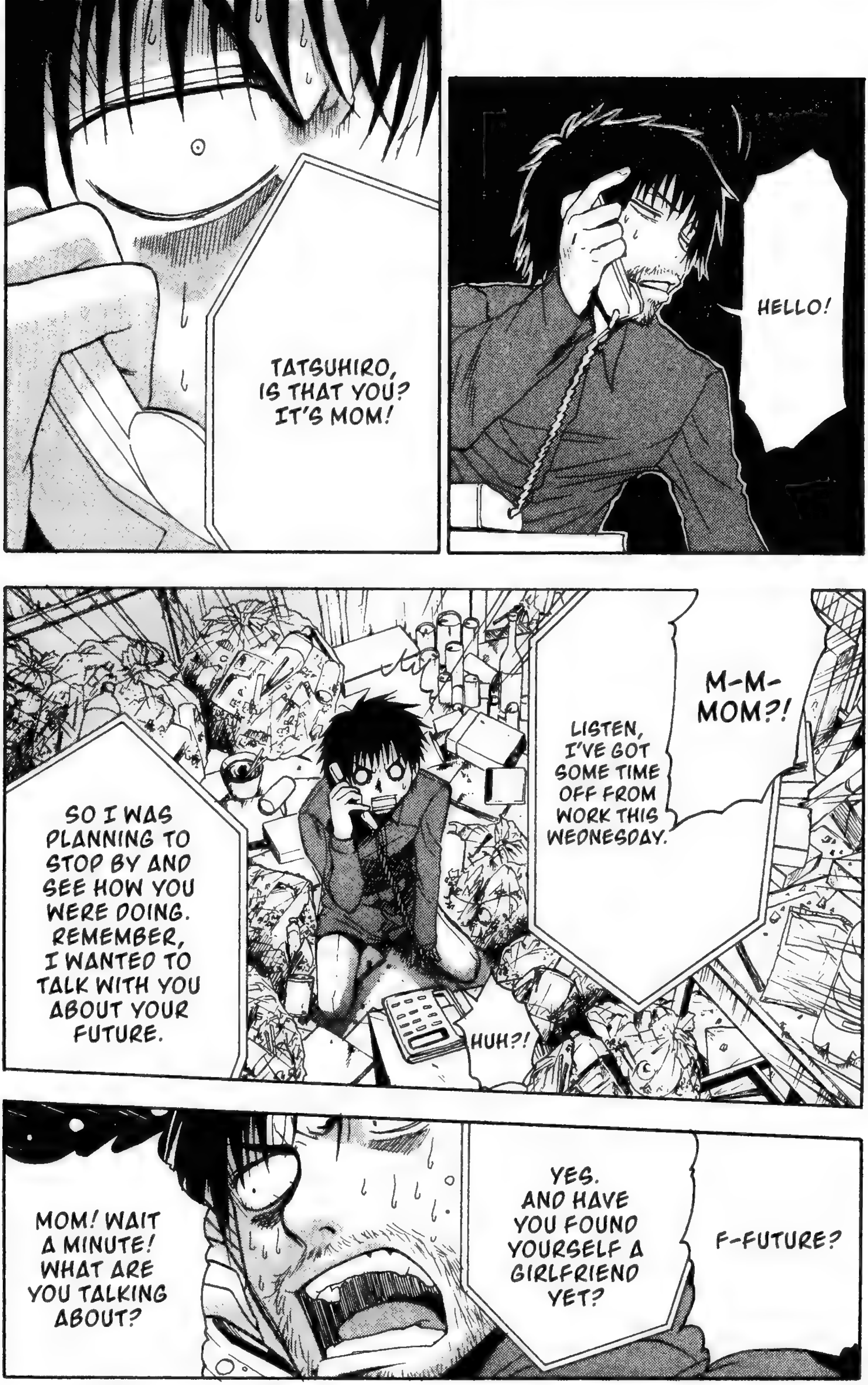

IT HAS BEEN ONE MONTH SINCE SHE SAID THAT...
AND SINCE THEN...
三田ハウス
Mita House
I'VE...
I-I'VE...

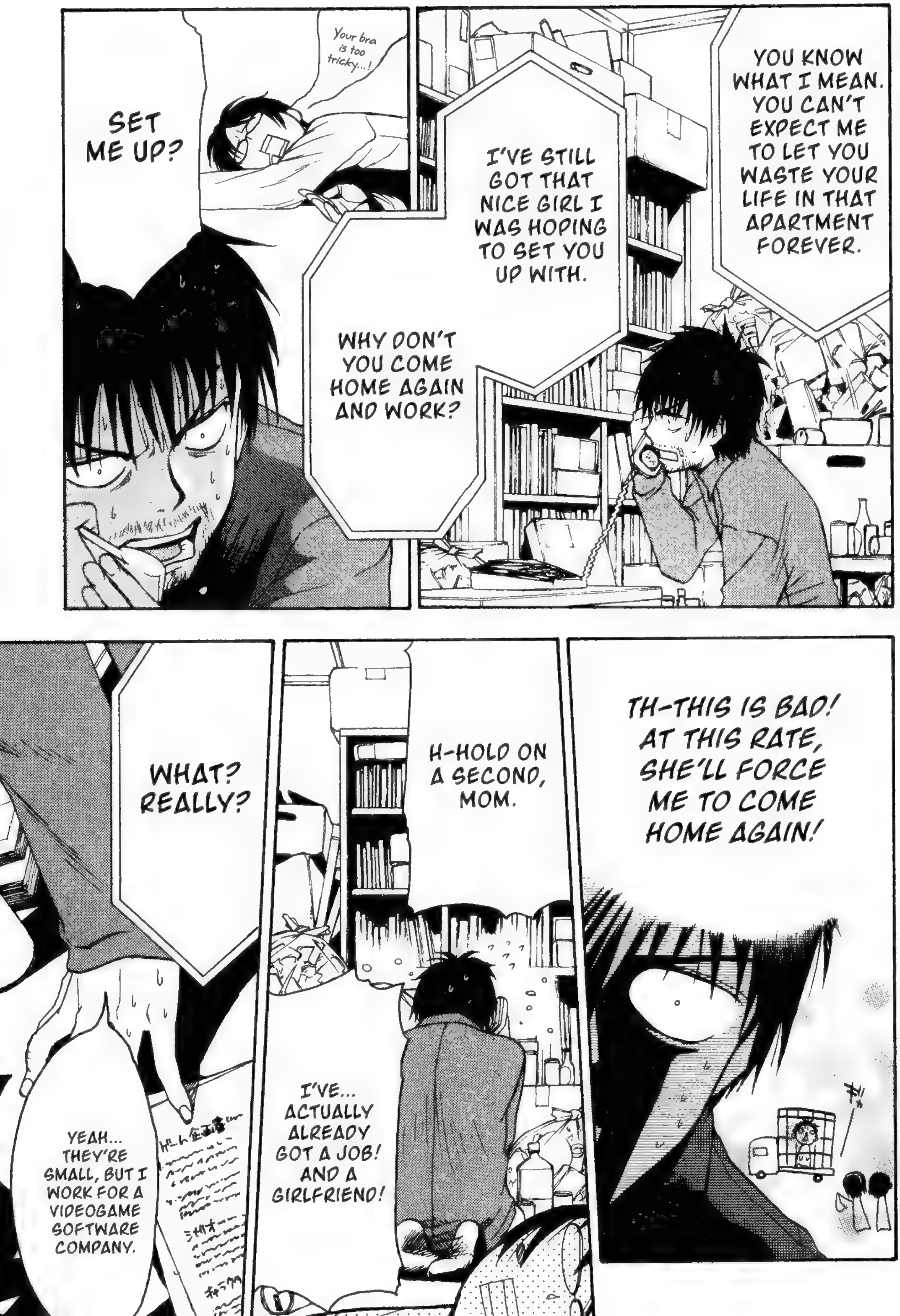

北海道直
ズワイ
週刊
ドーン
...BEEN A COMPLETE HIKIKOMORI!
山中コーヒー
山中コーヒー
ズーン

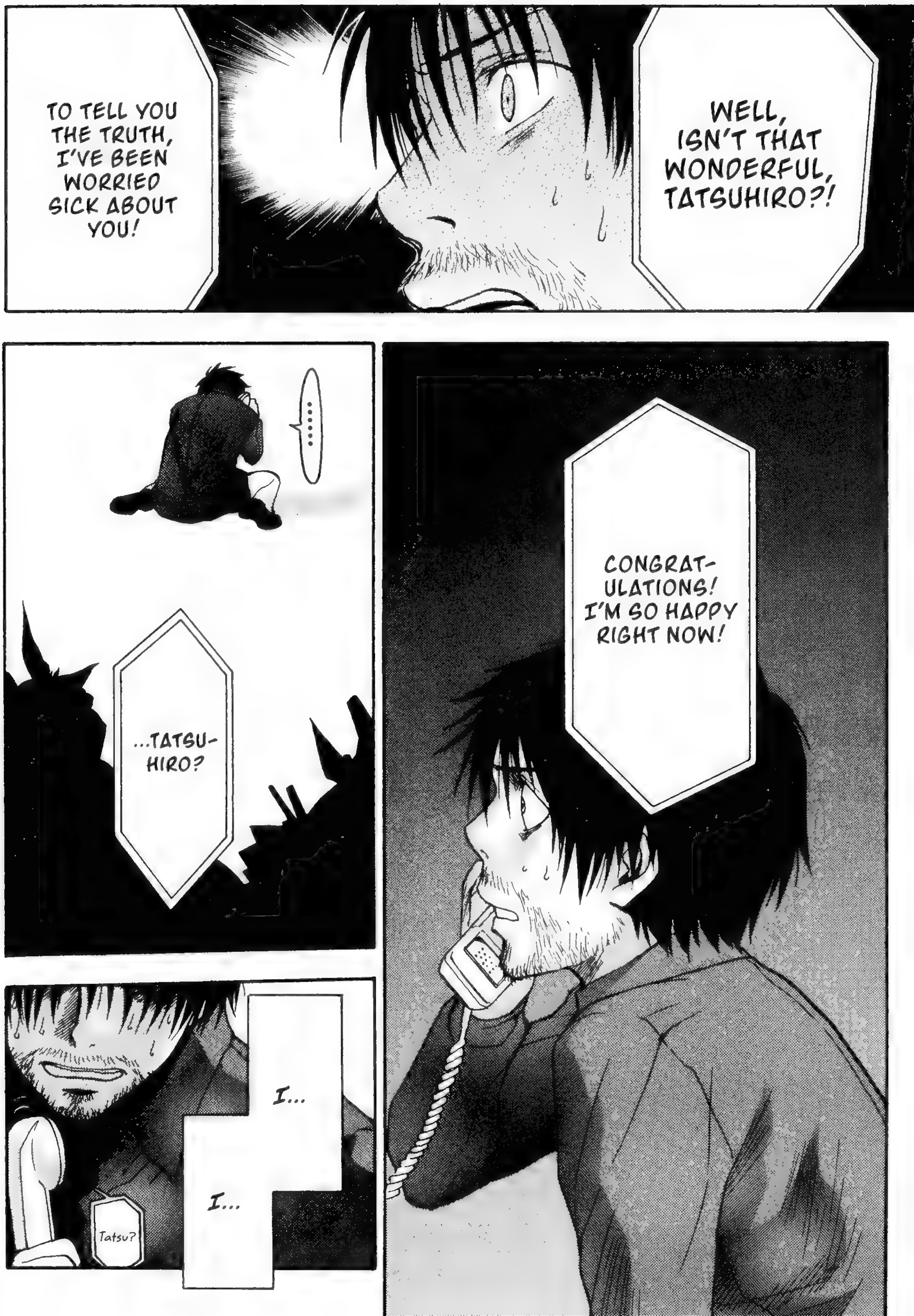

R
R
R
R
I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO ANYONE.
KRRRR
ポテチ
R
R
I DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING.
I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE WILL TO PICK UP THE PHONE.
R
JUST WHAT...
...AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

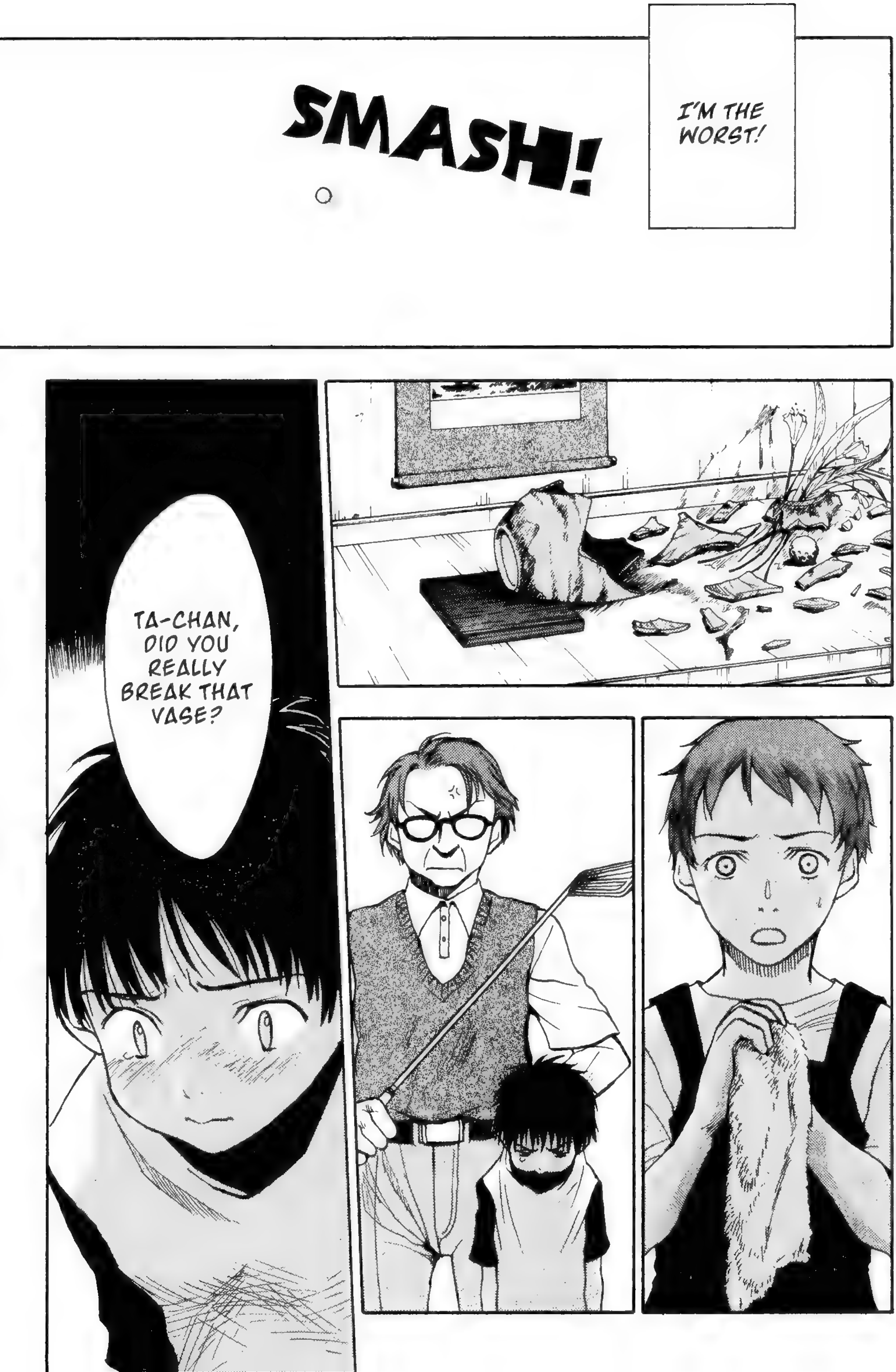

ビクッ
OH, NANAKO-TAAAAN...
ゴロン
Nyum... Nyum...
You look so cute with your backpack on.
ゴロン
......
AGREEING TO MAKE AN EROTIC GAME WITH THIS GUY HAS TO BE THE BIGGEST MISTAKE I'VE EVER MADE!
What dirty dream is this guy having?
PLUS I'VE BEEN SO OBSESSED WITH MAKING THE GAME...
...THAT I'VE DROPPED MISAKI-CHAN'S COUNSELING SESSIONS ALTOGETHER.

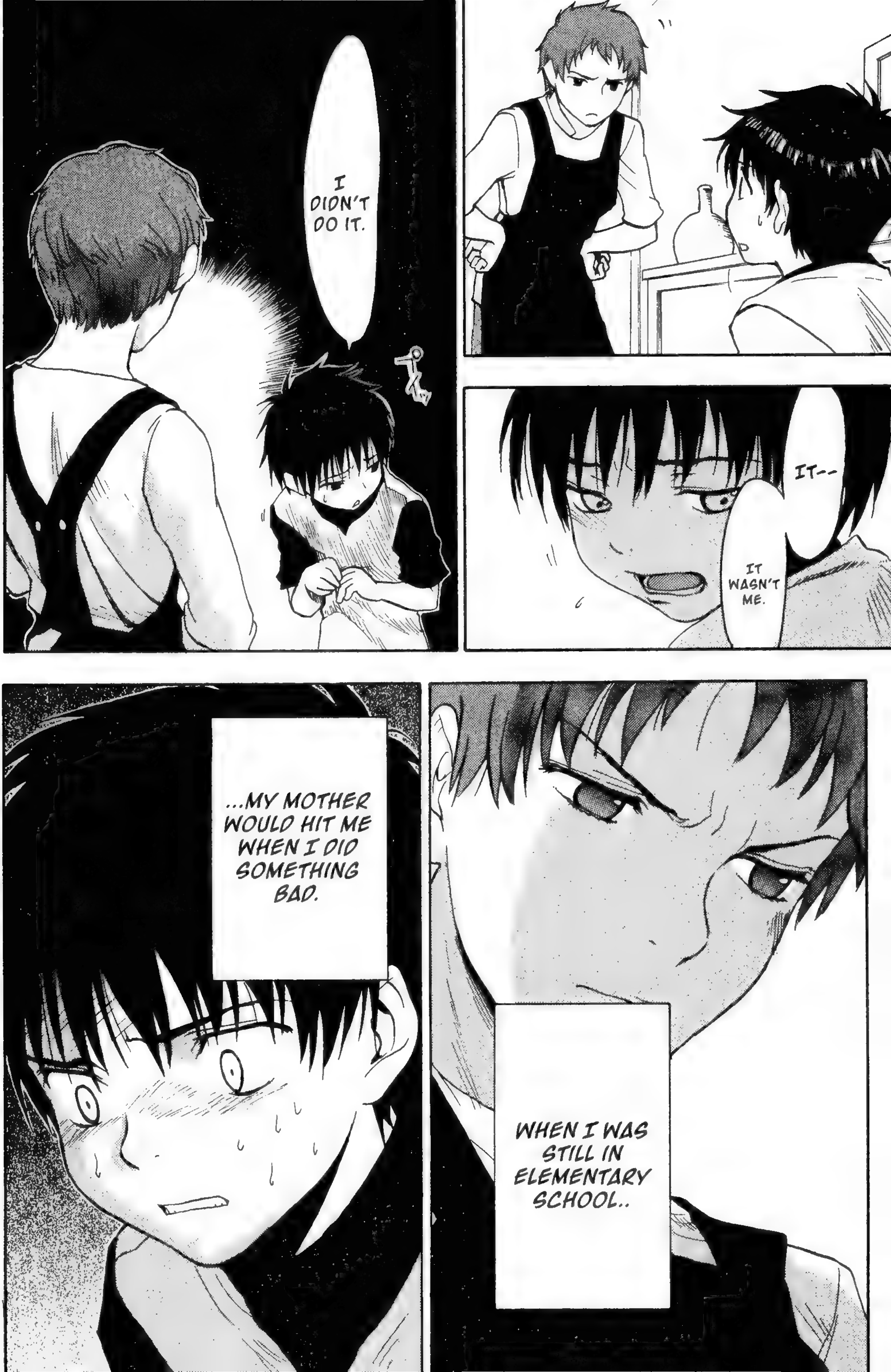

AND NOW I'VE ENDED UP IN THIS MESS!
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN...
RRRR
...IF MY PARENTS EVER SAW THIS PLACE.
RRRRR
GRRRR!
RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
SHUT UP AND GIVE IT A REST ALREADY!
RR
WHO IS IT?!

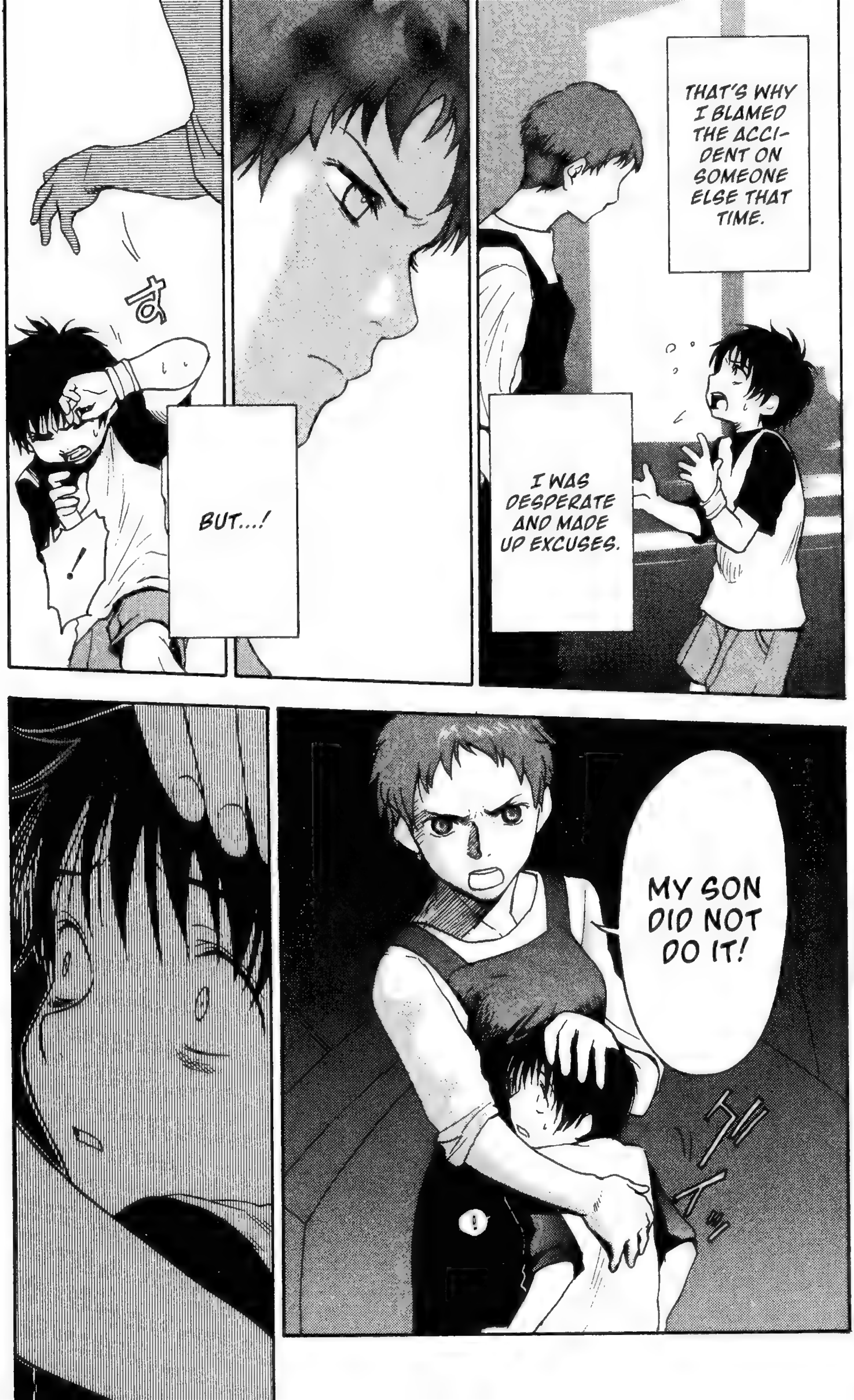

HELLO!
TATSUHIRO, IS THAT YOU? IT'S MOM!
M-M-MOM?!
LISTEN, I'VE GOT SOME TIME OFF FROM WORK THIS WEDNESDAY.
SO I WAS PLANNING TO STOP BY AND SEE HOW YOU WERE DOING. REMEMBER, I WANTED TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT YOUR FUTURE.
HUH?!
F-FUTURE?
YES. AND HAVE YOU FOUND YOURSELF A GIRLFRIEND YET?
MOM! WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

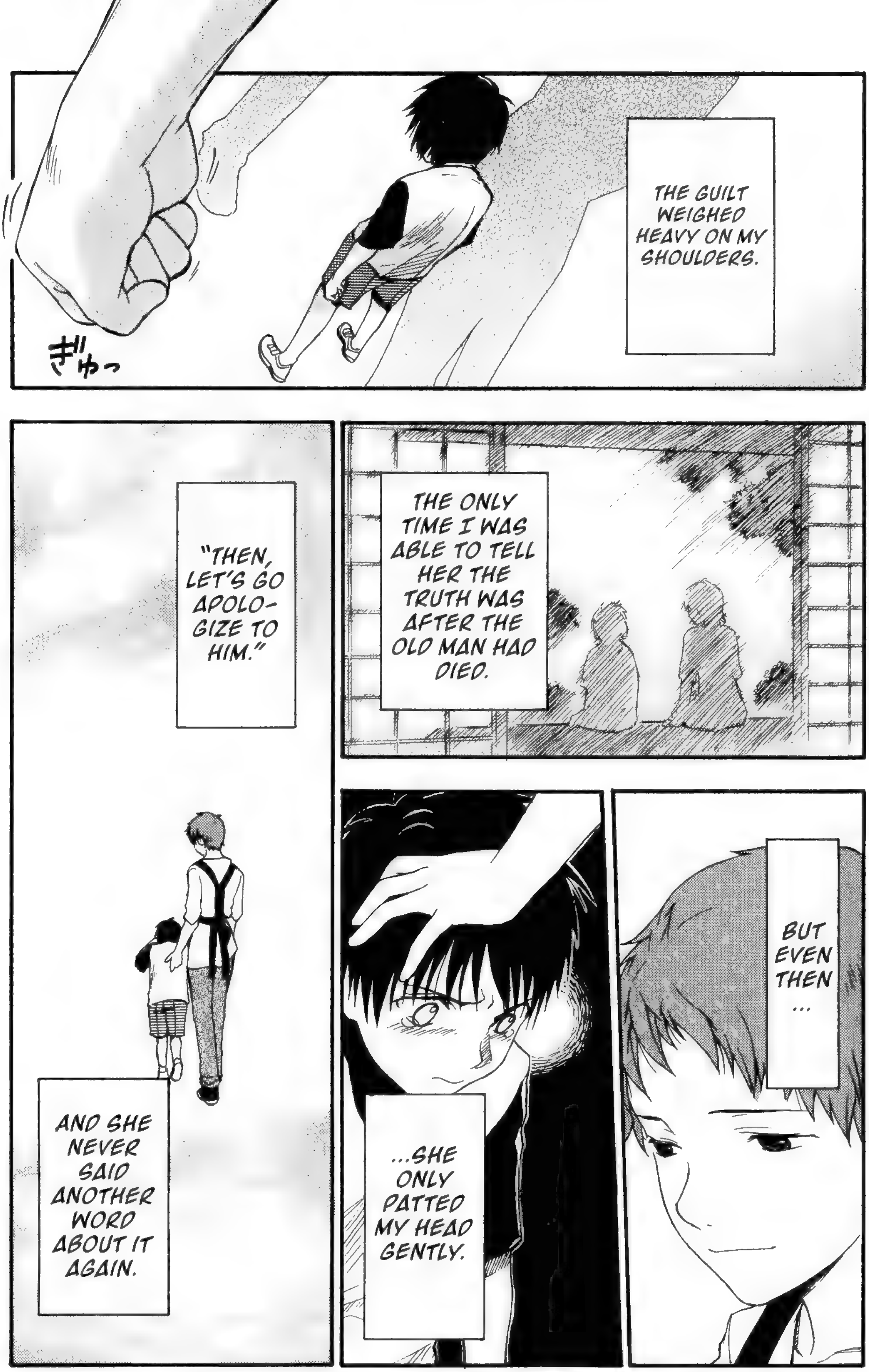

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. YOU CAN'T EXPECT ME TO LET YOU WASTE YOUR LIFE IN THAT APARTMENT FOREVER.
I'VE STILL GOT THAT NICE GIRL I WAS HOPING TO SET YOU UP WITH.
WHY DON'T YOU COME HOME AGAIN AND WORK?
SET ME UP?
Your bra is too tricky...!
TH-THIS IS BAD! AT THIS RATE, SHE'LL FORCE ME TO COME HOME AGAIN!
H-HOLD ON A SECOND, MOM.
I'VE... ACTUALLY ALREADY GOT A JOB! AND A GIRLFRIEND!
WHAT? REALLY?
YEAH... THEY'RE SMALL, BUT I WORK FOR A VIDEOGAME SOFTWARE COMPANY.

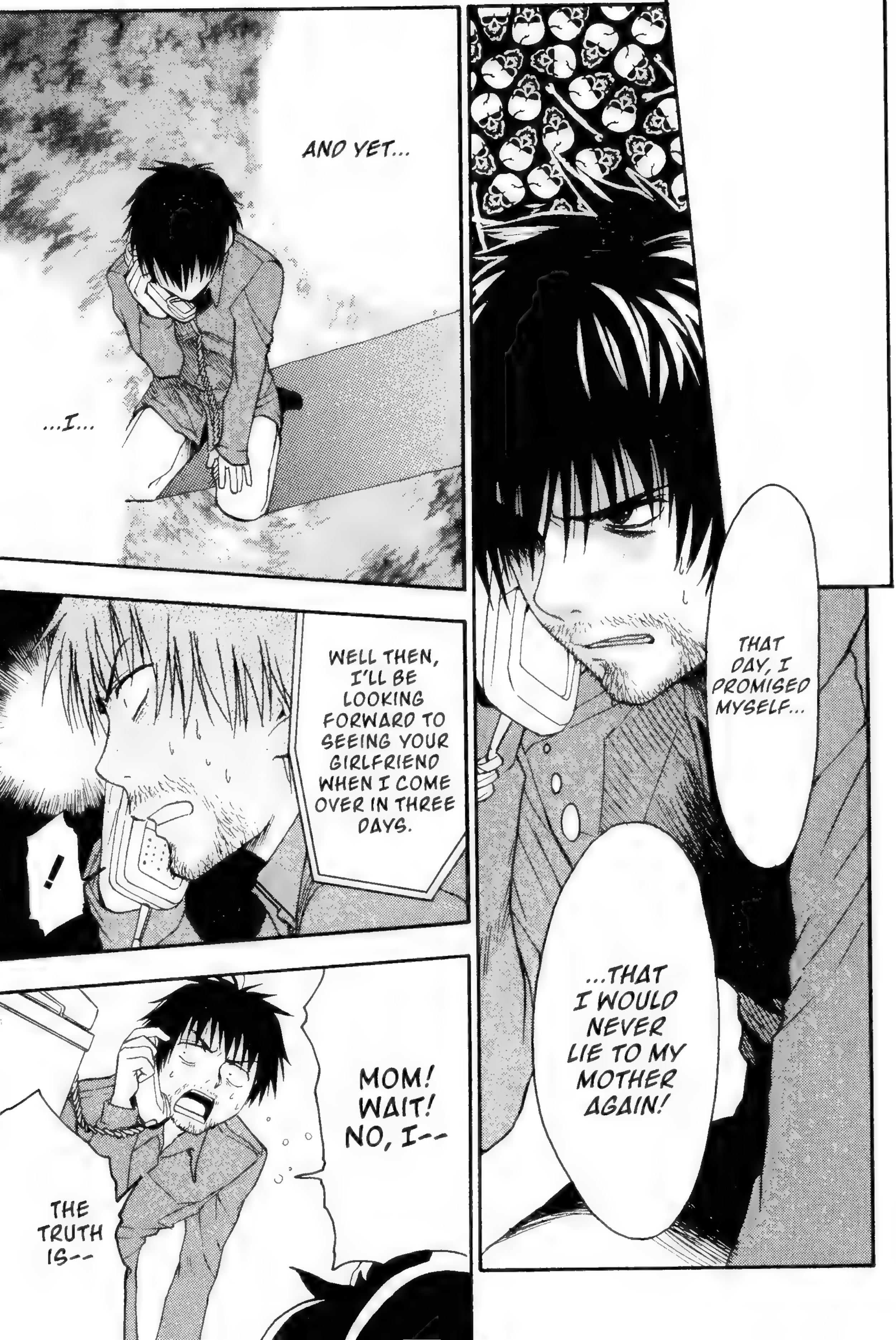

WELL, ISN'T THAT WONDERFUL, TATSUHIRO?!
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'VE BEEN WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU!
CONGRATULATIONS! I'M SO HAPPY RIGHT NOW!
......
...TATSUHIRO?
I...
I...
Tatsu?

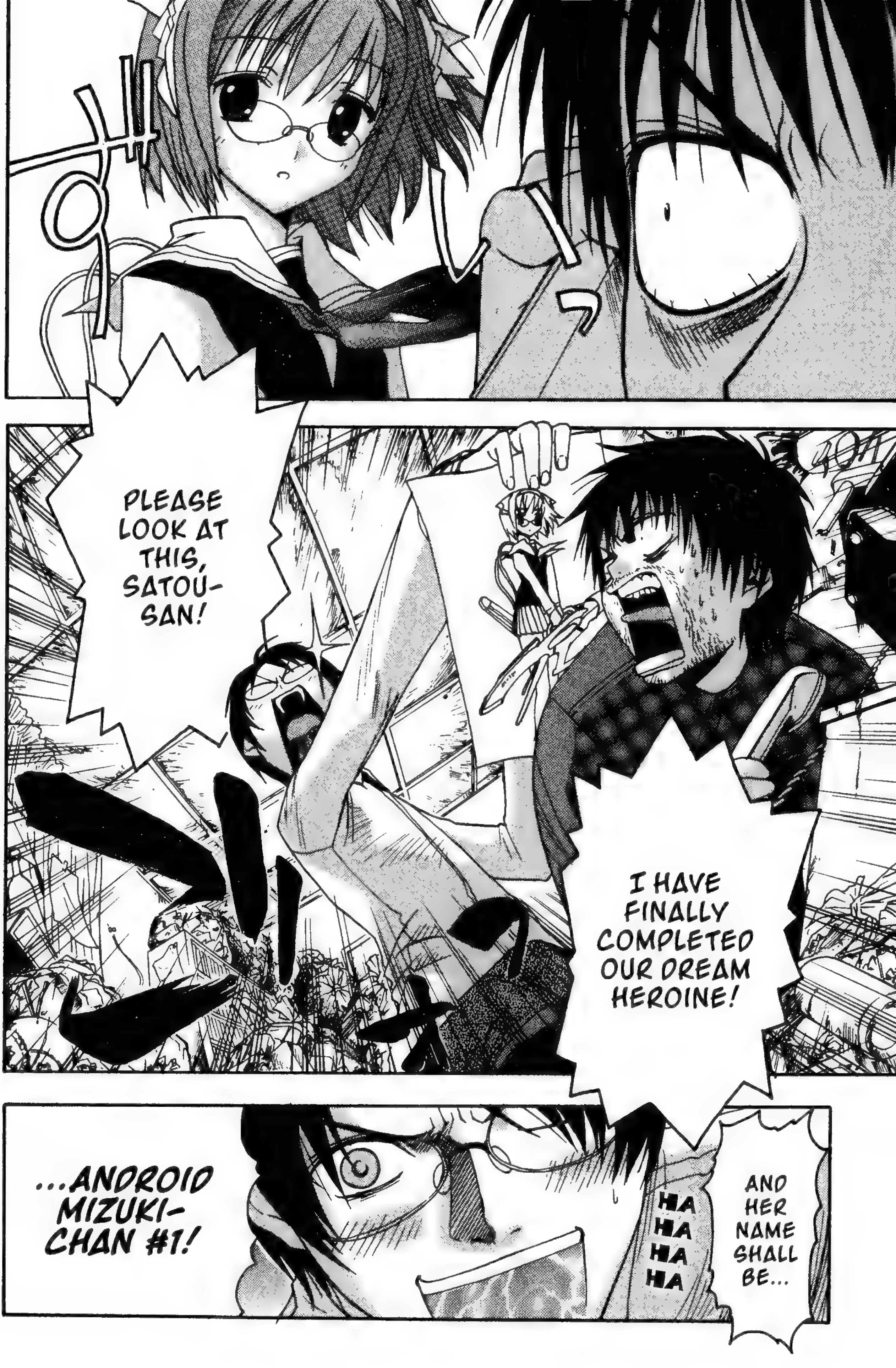

I'M THE WORST!
SMASH!
TA-CHAN, DID YOU REALLY BREAK THAT VASE?

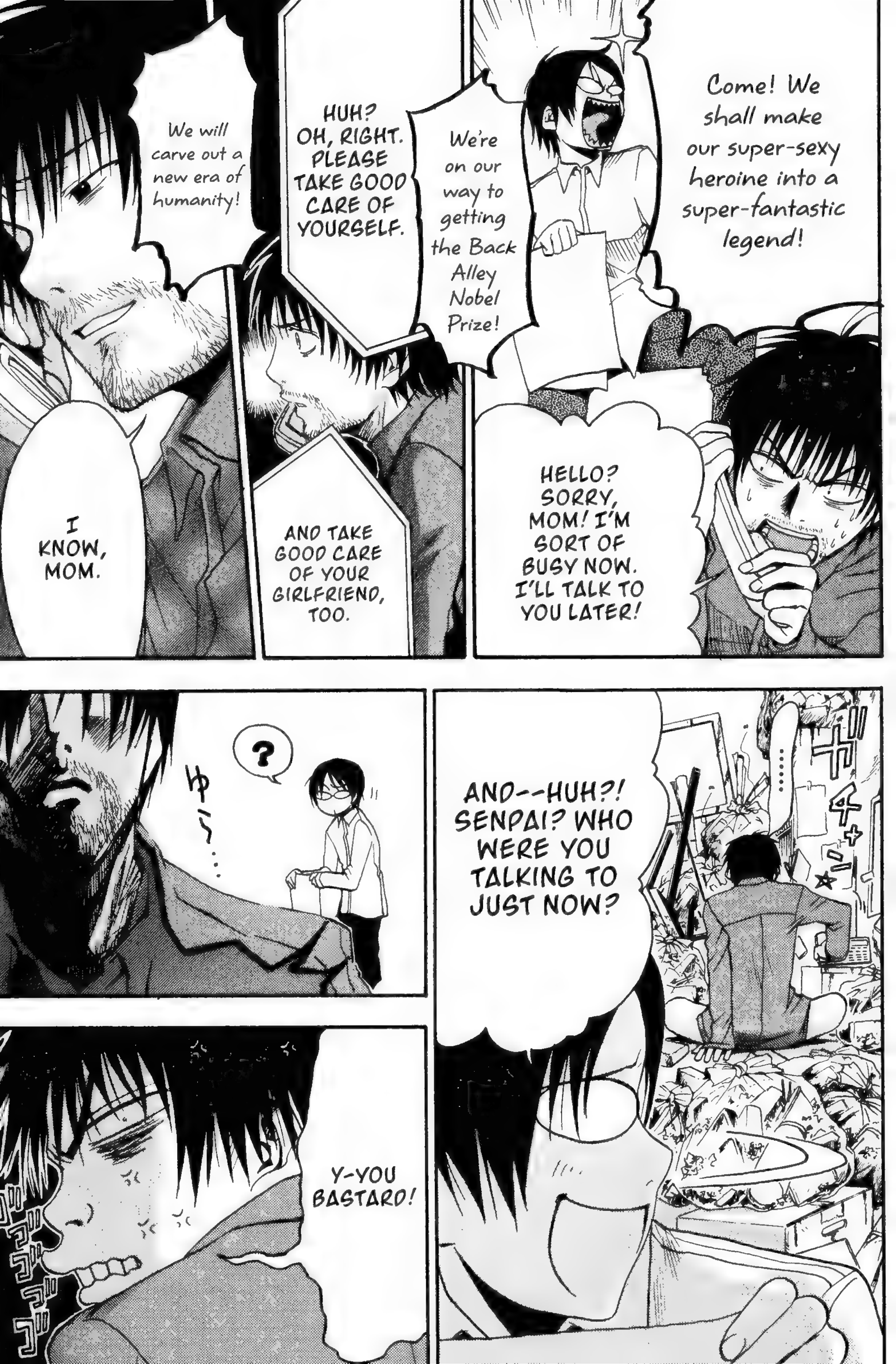

IT--
IT WASN'T ME.
I DIDN'T DO IT.
WHEN I WAS STILL IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL..
...MY MOTHER WOULD HIT ME WHEN I DID SOMETHING BAD.

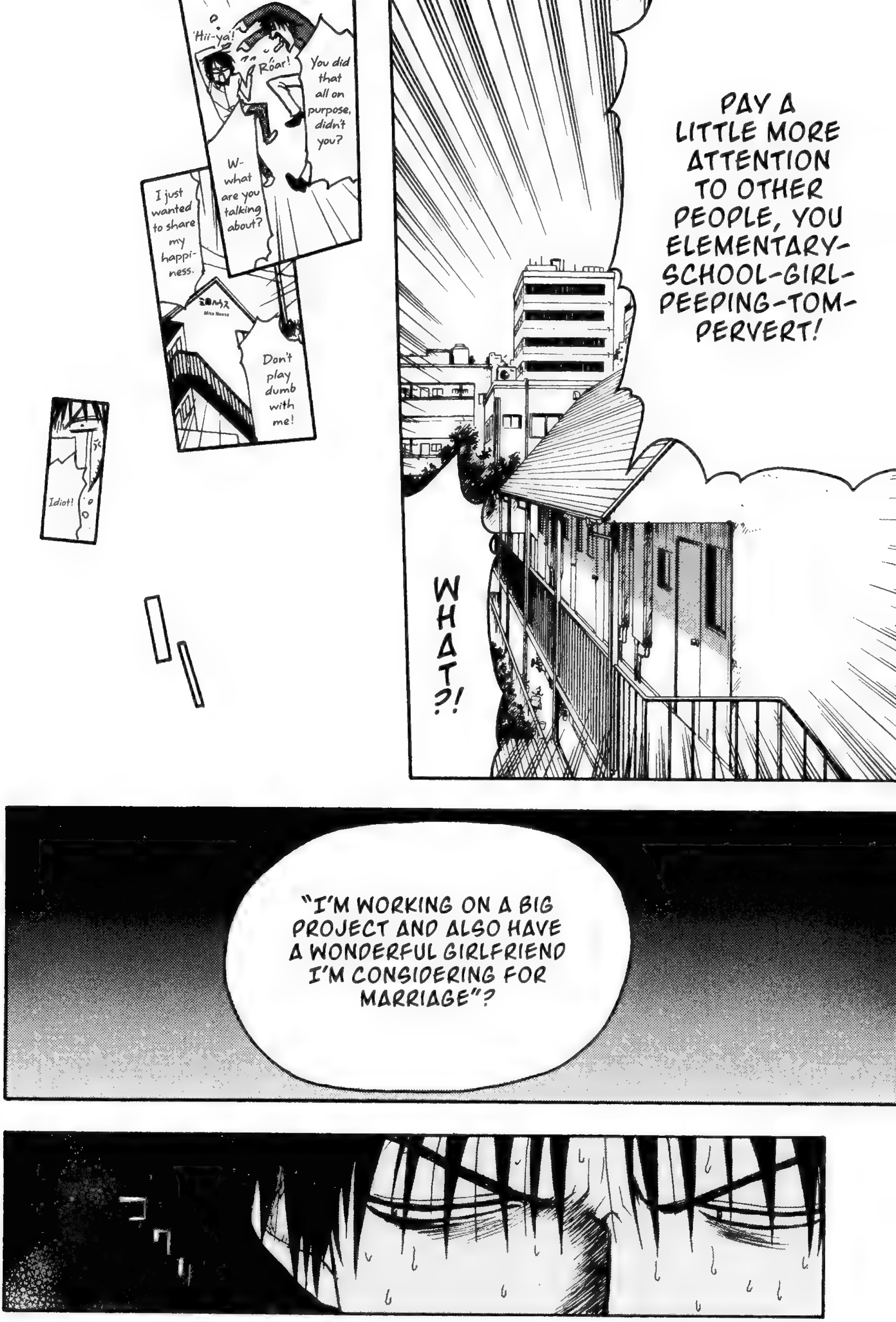

THAT'S WHY I BLAMED THE ACCIDENT ON SOMEONE ELSE THAT TIME.
I WAS DESPERATE AND MADE UP EXCUSES.
BUT...!
す
!
MY SON DID NOT DO IT!
!

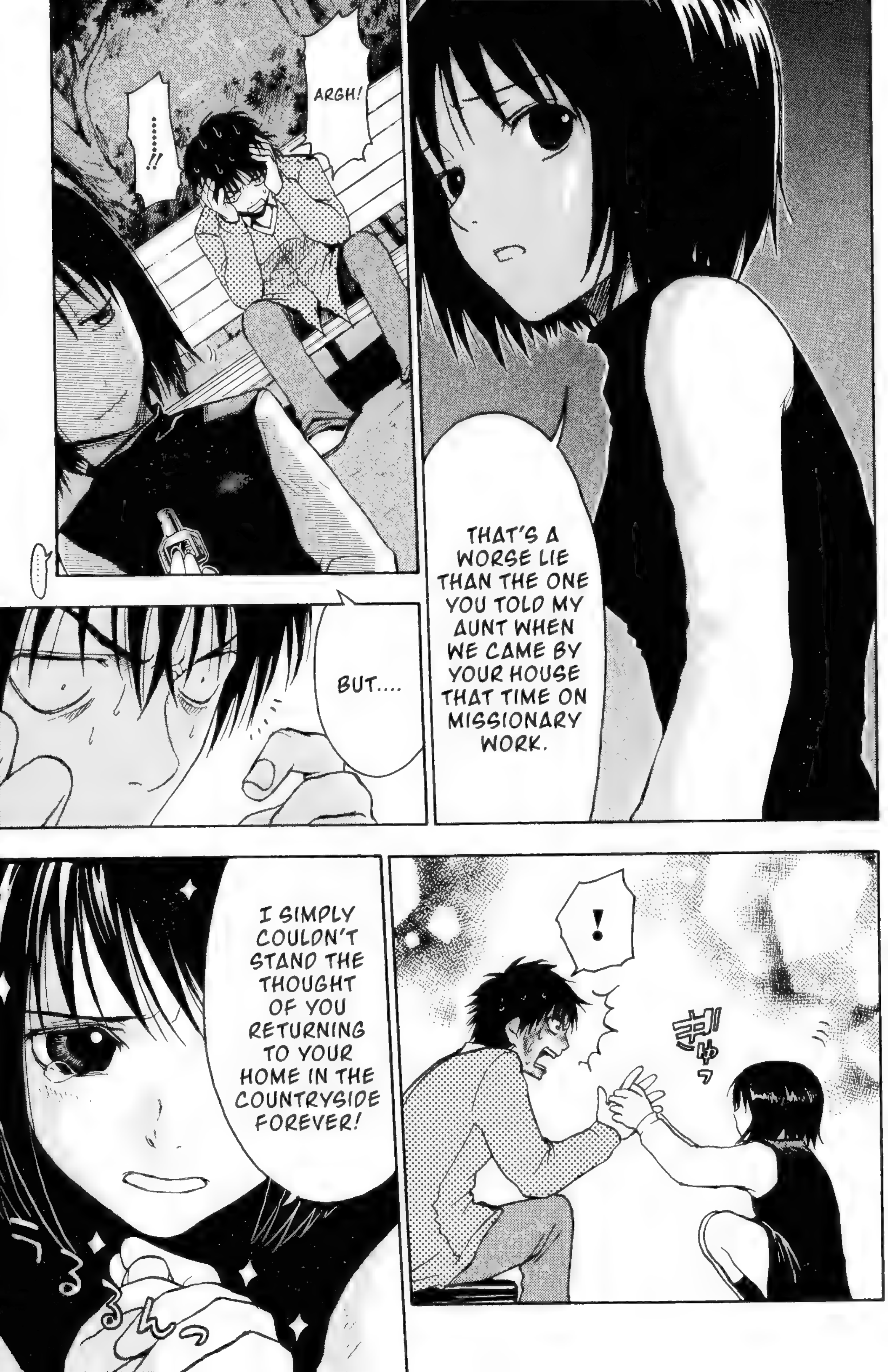

THE GUILT WEIGHED HEAVY ON MY SHOULDERS.
ぎゅっ
THE ONLY TIME I WAS ABLE TO TELL HER THE TRUTH WAS AFTER THE OLD MAN HAD DIED.
BUT EVEN THEN...
...SHE ONLY PATTED MY HEAD GENTLY.
"THEN, LET'S GO APOLOGIZE TO HIM."
AND SHE NEVER SAID ANOTHER WORD ABOUT IT AGAIN.

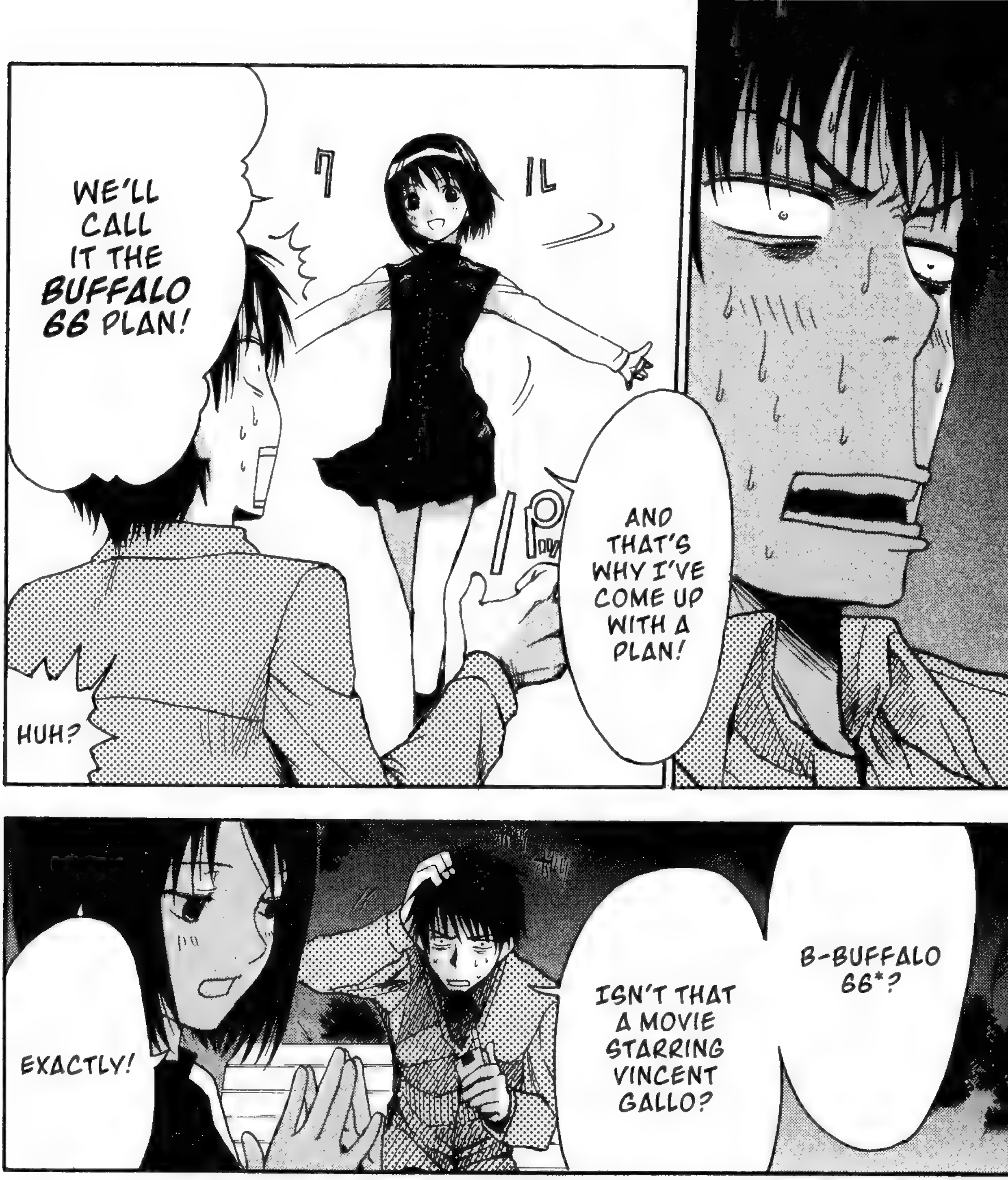

THAT DAY, I PROMISED MYSELF...
...THAT I WOULD NEVER LIE TO MY MOTHER AGAIN!
AND YET...
...I...
WELL THEN, I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOUR GIRLFRIEND WHEN I COME OVER IN THREE DAYS.
!
MOM! WAIT! NO, I--
THE TRUTH IS--


PLEASE LOOK AT THIS, SATOU-SAN!
I HAVE FINALLY COMPLETED OUR DREAM HEROINE!
AND HER NAME SHALL BE...
HA HA HA HA
...ANDROID MIZUKI-CHAN #1!

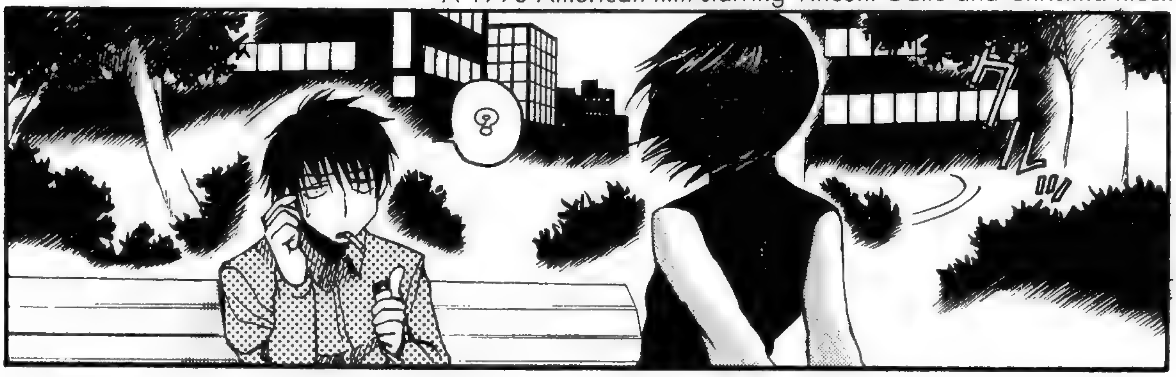

Come! We shall make our super-sexy heroine into a super-fantastic legend!
We're on our way to getting the Back Alley Nobel Prize!
HELLO? SORRY, MOM! I'M SORT OF BUSY NOW. I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER!
HUH? OH, RIGHT. PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURSELF.
AND TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR GIRLFRIEND, TOO.
We will carve out a new era of humanity!
I KNOW, MOM.
AND--HUH?! SENPAI? WHO WERE YOU TALKING TO JUST NOW?
?
ゆら…
Y-YOU BASTARD!

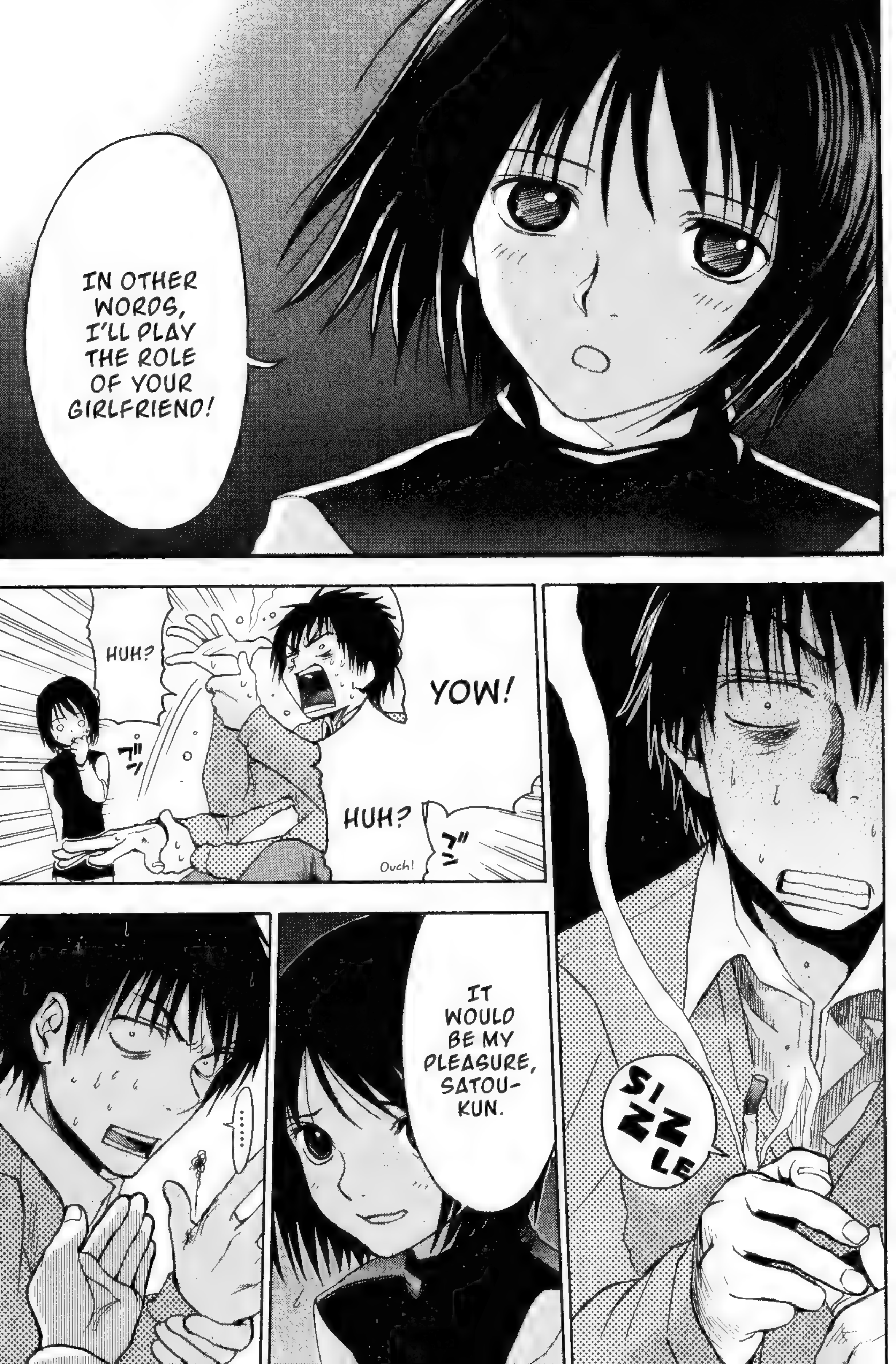

PAY A LITTLE MORE ATTENTION TO OTHER PEOPLE, YOU ELEMENTARY-SCHOOL-GIRL-PEEPING-TOM-PERVERT!
WHAT?!
You did that all on purpose, didn't you?
Roar!
'Hii-ya!'
W-what are you talking about?
I just wanted to share my happiness.
Mita House
Don't play dumb with me!
Idiot!
"I'M WORKING ON A BIG PROJECT AND ALSO HAVE A WONDERFUL GIRLFRIEND I'M CONSIDERING FOR MARRIAGE"?

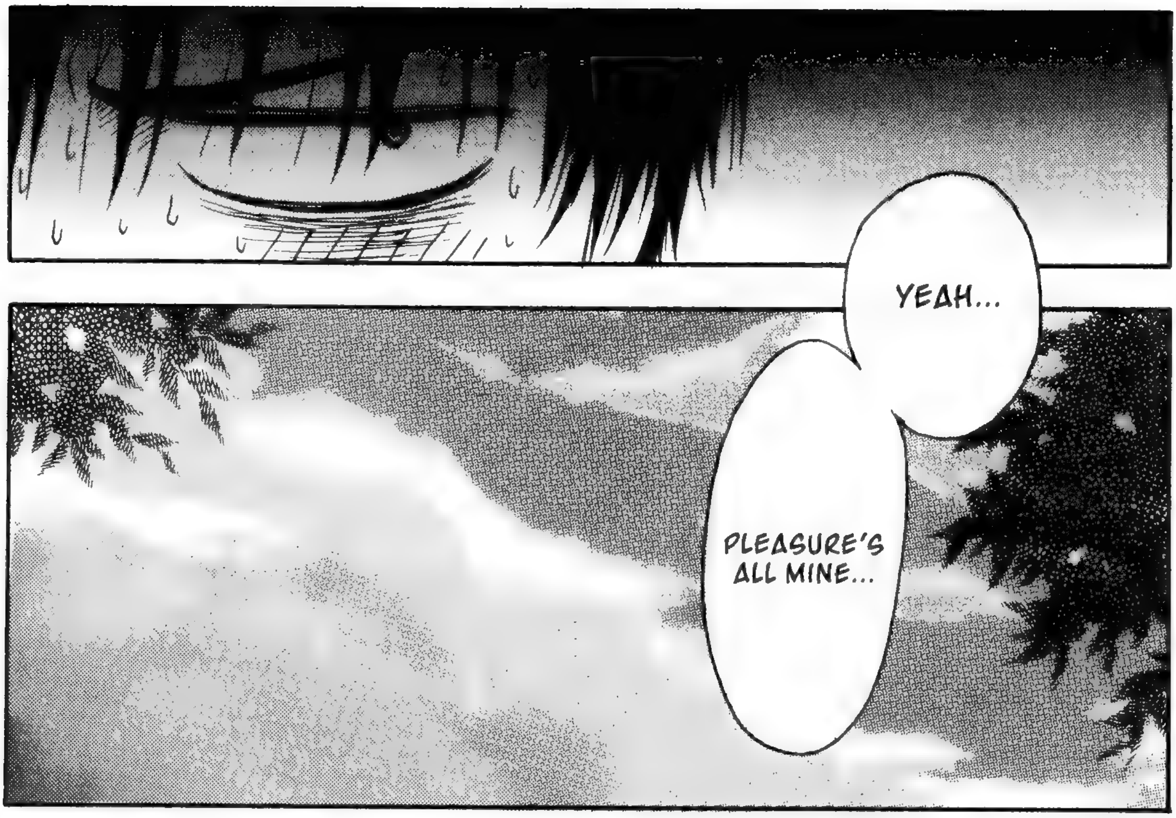

THAT'S A WORSE LIE THAN THE ONE YOU TOLD MY AUNT WHEN WE CAME BY YOUR HOUSE THAT TIME ON MISSIONARY WORK.
ARGH!
......!!
BUT....
......
!
ぎゅっ
I SIMPLY COULDN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF YOU RETURNING TO YOUR HOME IN THE COUNTRYSIDE FOREVER!
ぷるるんっ

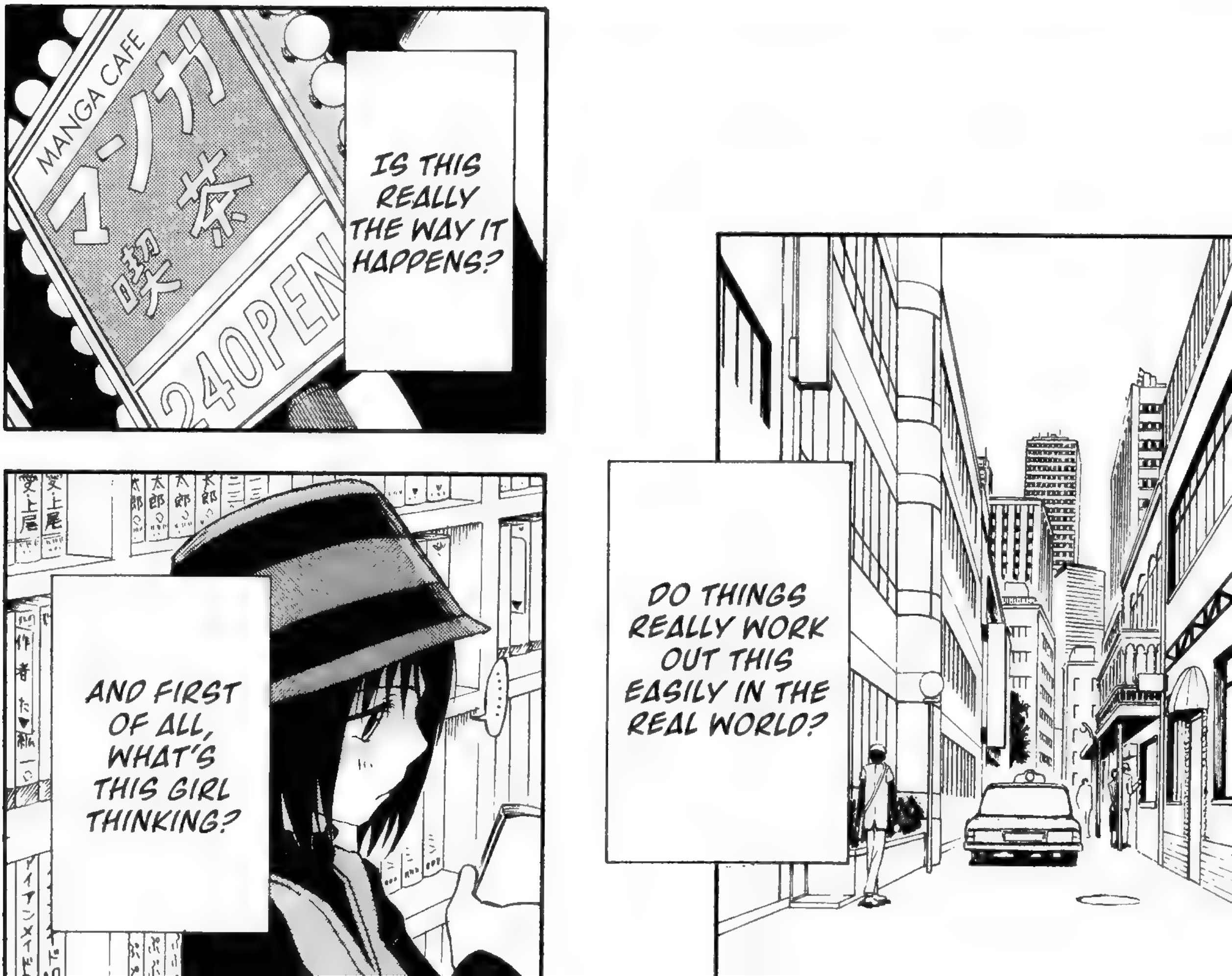

AND THAT'S WHY I'VE COME UP WITH A PLAN!
WE'LL CALL IT THE BUFFALO 66 PLAN!
HUH?
B-BUFFALO 66*?
ISN'T THAT A MOVIE STARRING VINCENT GALLO?
EXACTLY!

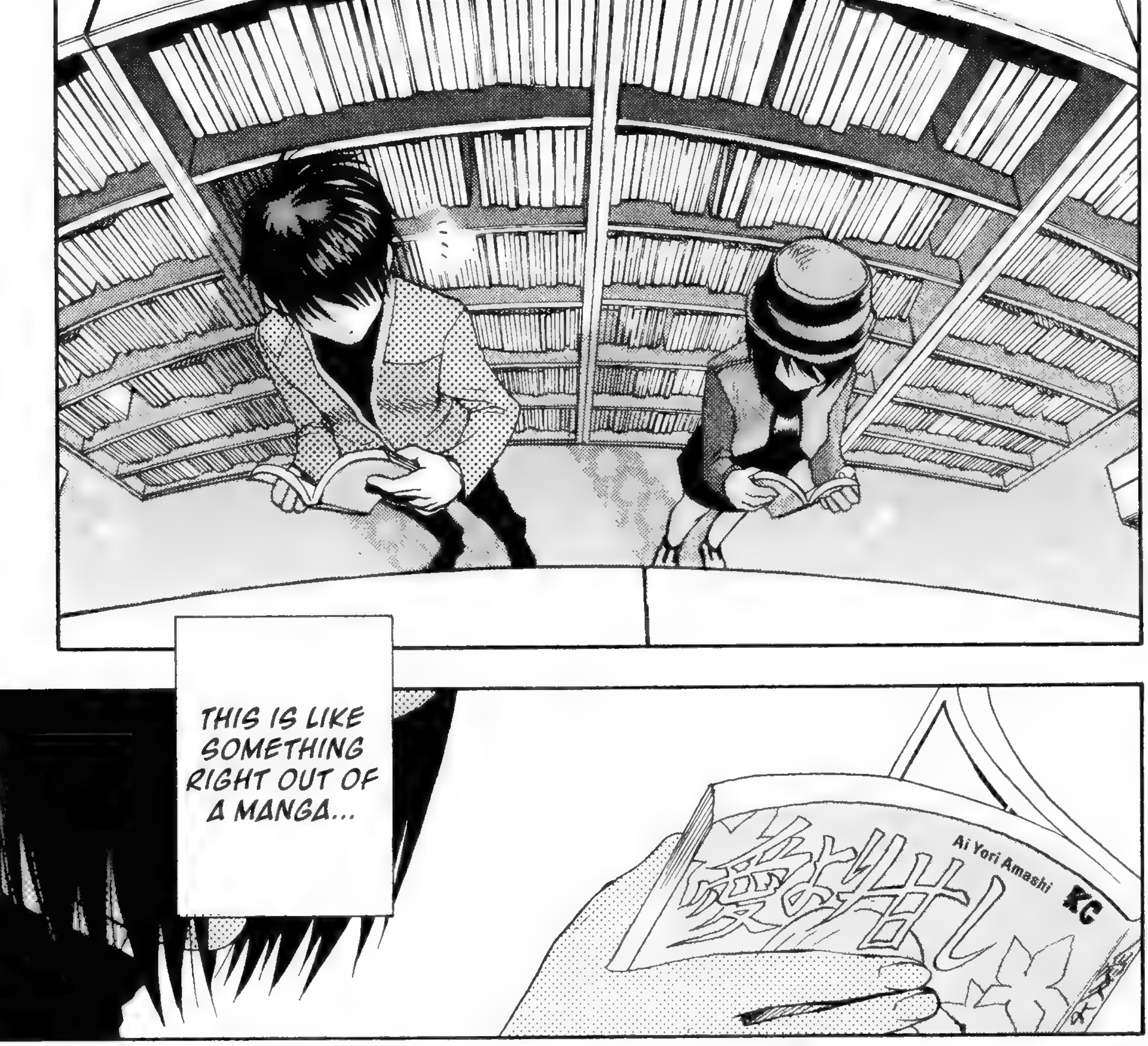
*A 1998 American film starring Vincent Gallo and Christina Ricci.



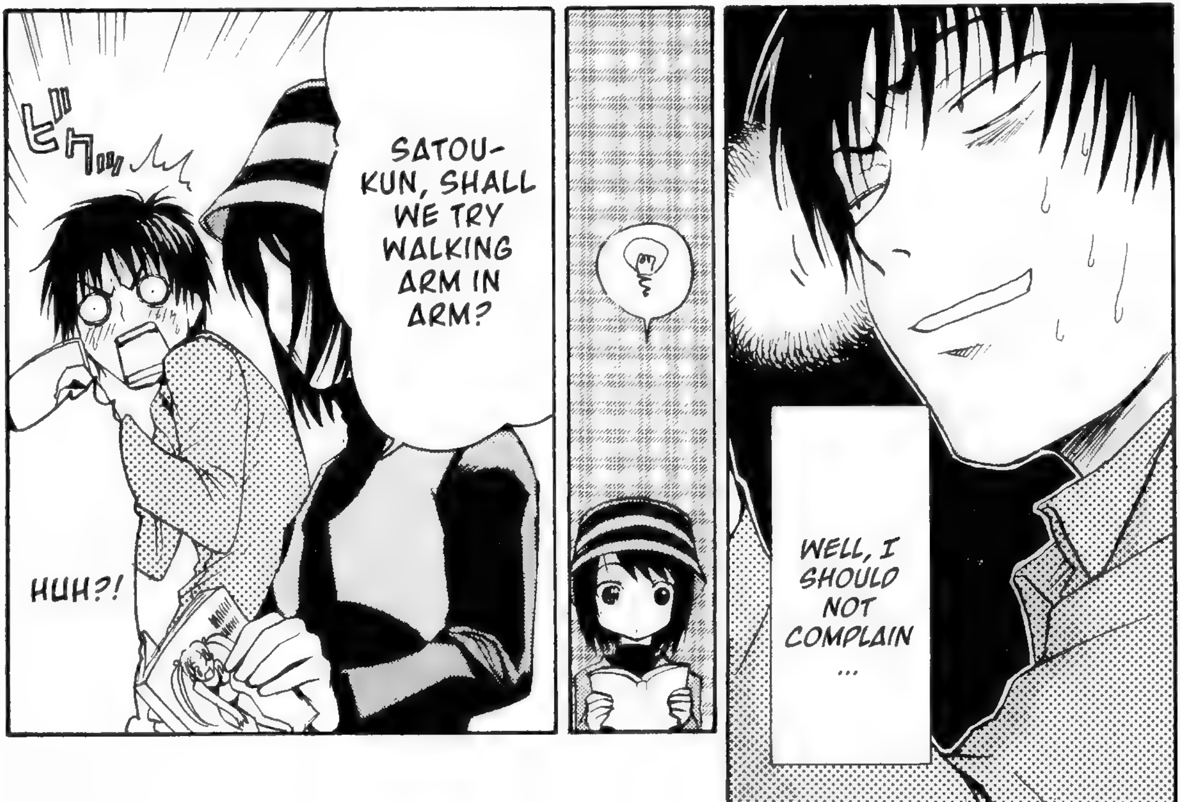

IN OTHER WORDS, I'LL PLAY THE ROLE OF YOUR GIRLFRIEND!
SIZZLE
YOW!
HUH?
ゴッ
Ouch!
ゴッ
HUH?
IT WOULD BE MY PLEASURE, SATOU-KUN.
……

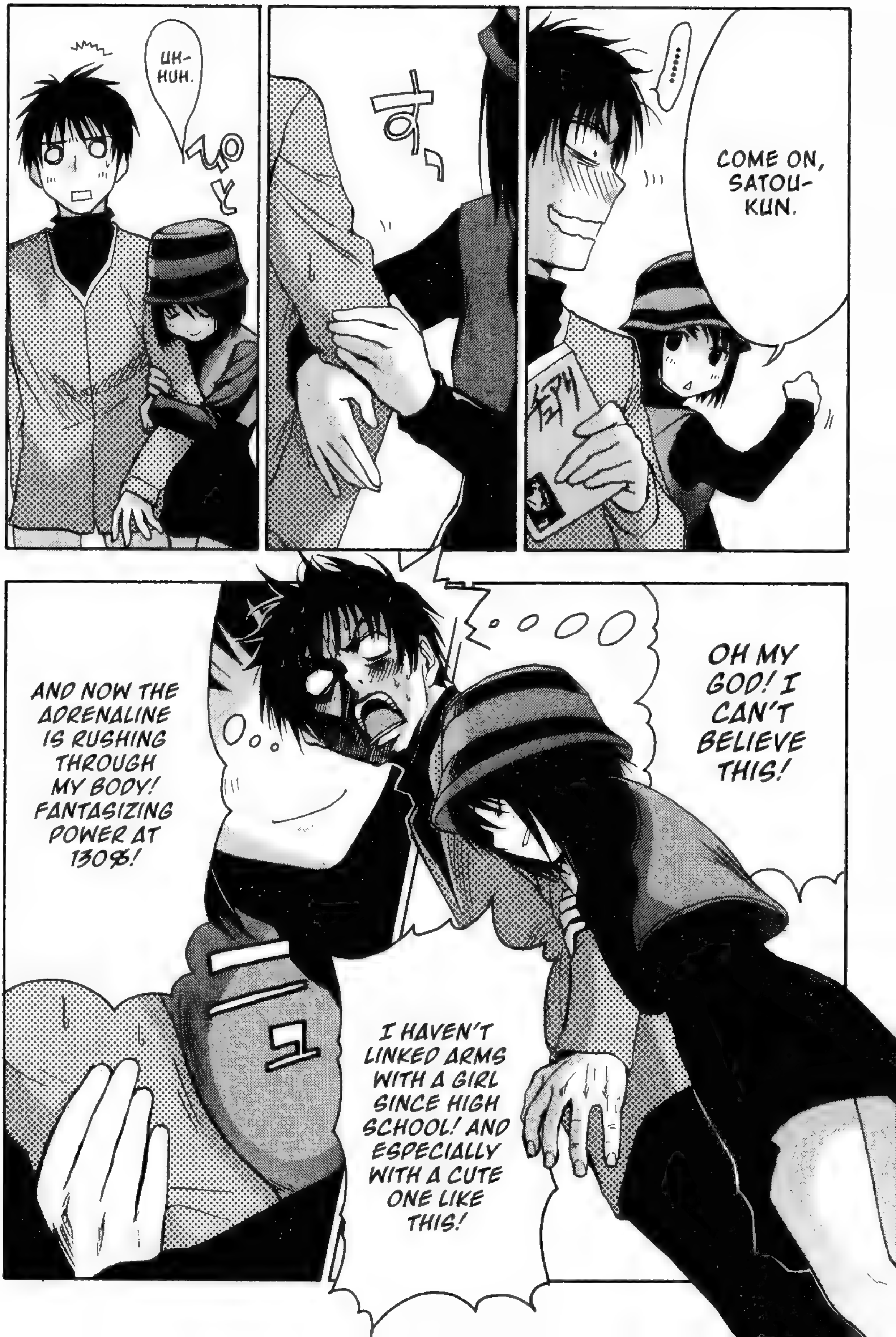

YEAH...
PLEASURE'S ALL MINE...

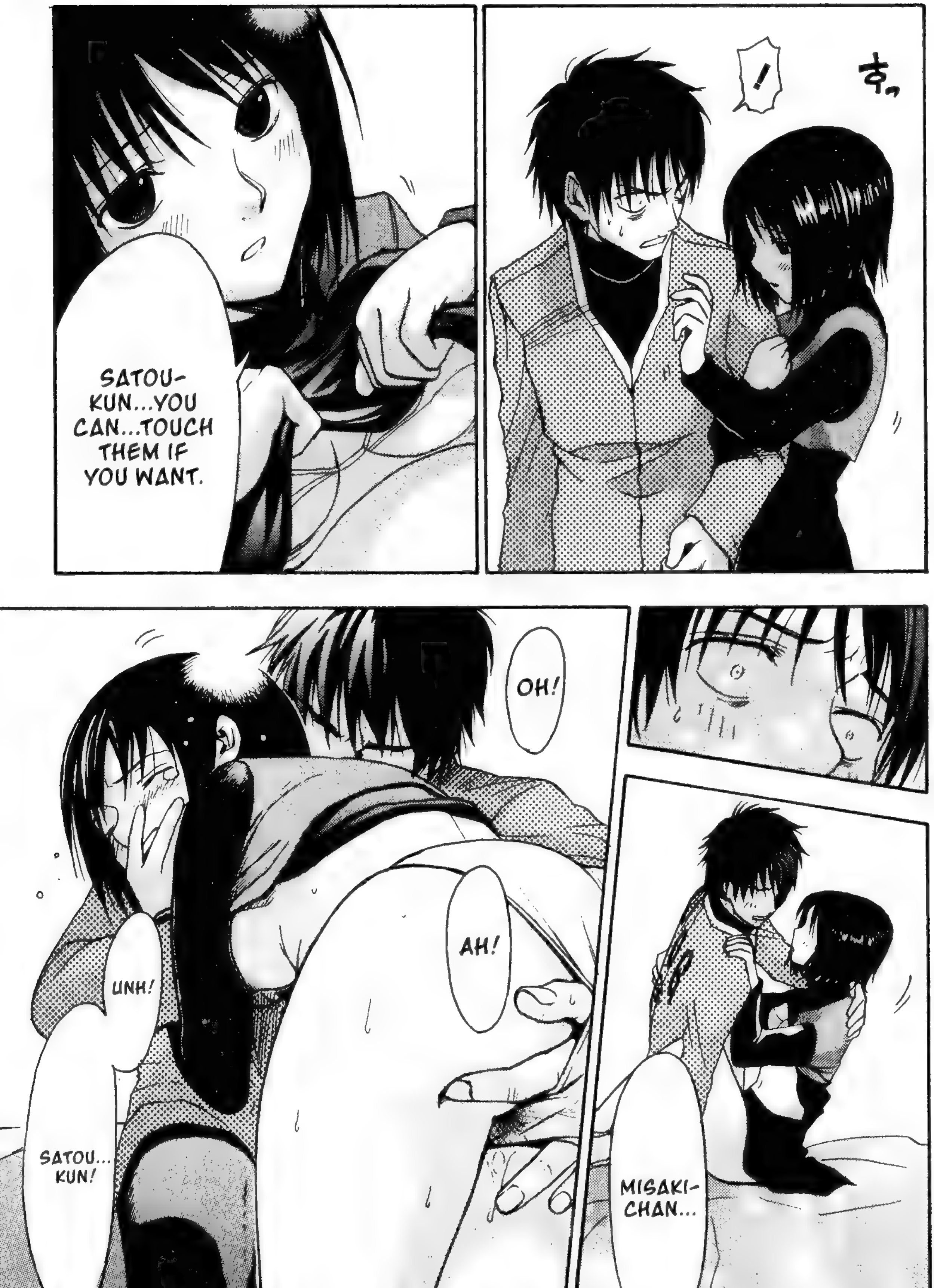

MANGA CAFE
マンガ喫茶
24OPEN
IS THIS REALLY THE WAY IT HAPPENS?
DO THINGS REALLY WORK OUT THIS EASILY IN THE REAL WORLD?
AND FIRST OF ALL, WHAT'S THIS GIRL THINKING?

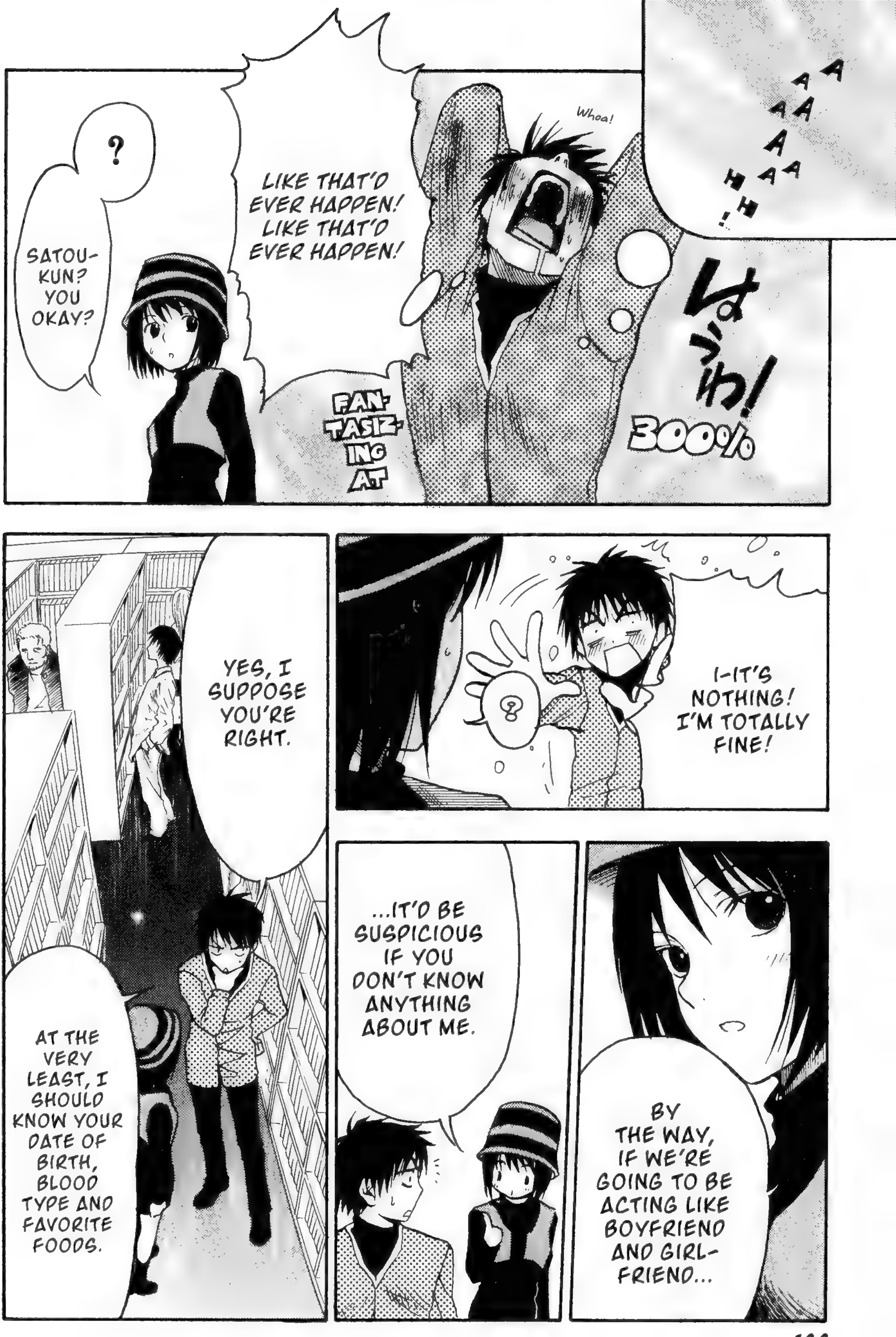

THIS IS LIKE SOMETHING RIGHT OUT OF A MANGA...
愛より甘し
Ai Yori Amashi
KC

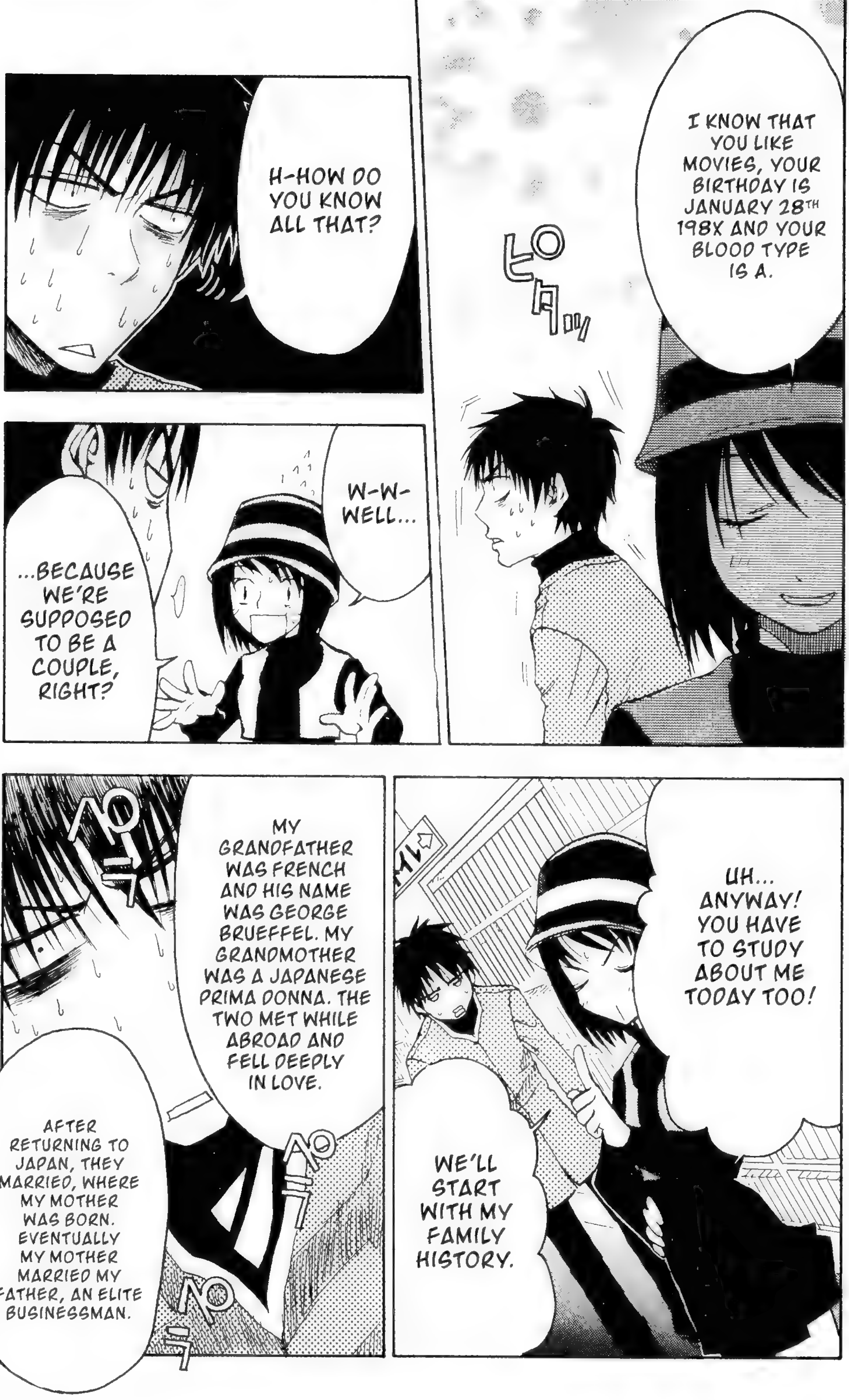
*Check the Glossary on Page 180

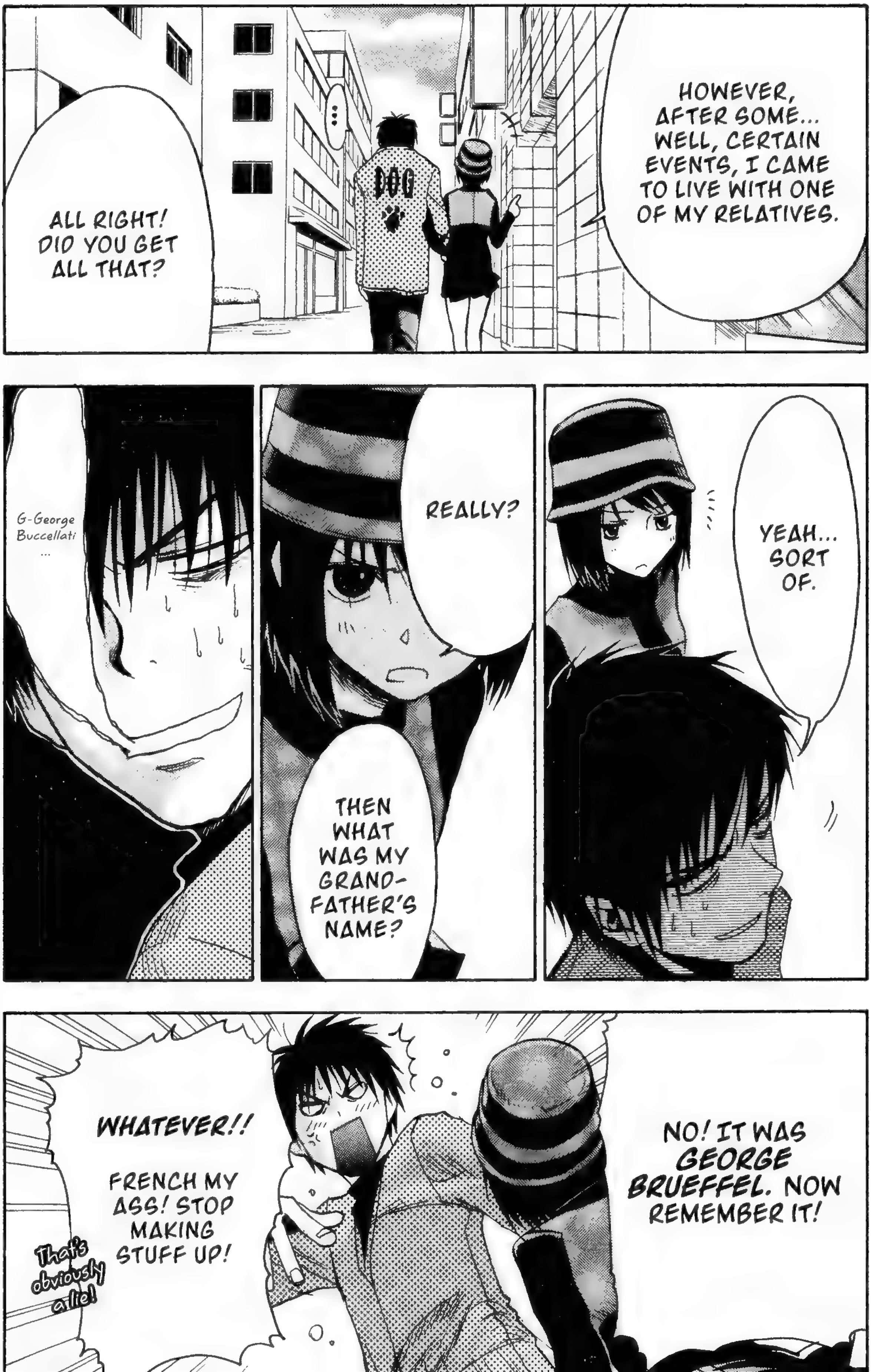

WELL, I SHOULD NOT COMPLAIN ...
SATOU-KUN, SHALL WE TRY WALKING ARM IN ARM?
ビクッ
HUH?!

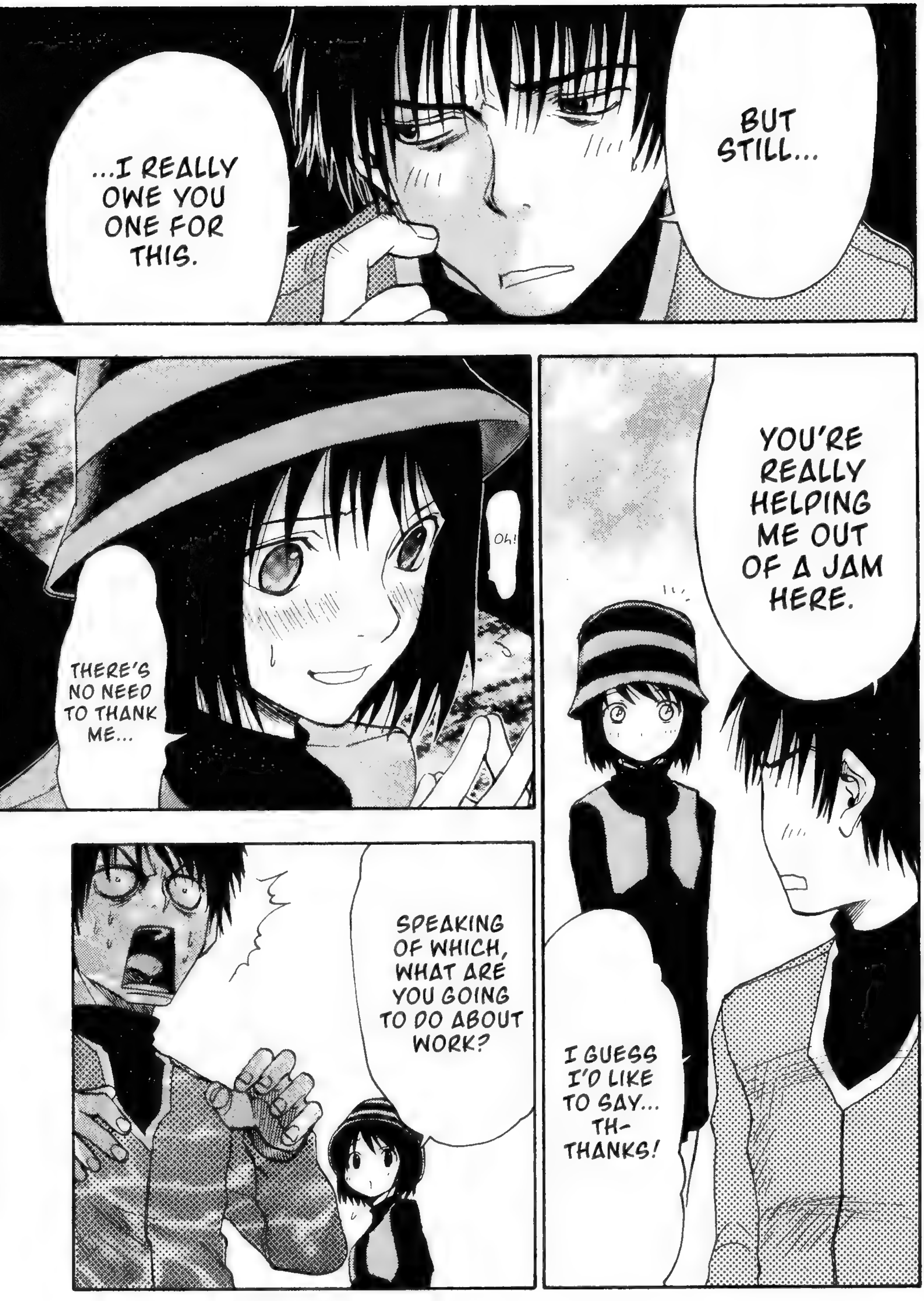

......
COME ON, SATOU-KUN.
す、
UH-HUH.
ぴと
OH MY GOD! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
AND NOW THE ADRENALINE IS RUSHING THROUGH MY BODY! FANTASIZING POWER AT 130%!
I HAVEN'T LINKED ARMS WITH A GIRL SINCE HIGH SCHOOL! AND ESPECIALLY WITH A CUTE ONE LIKE THIS!

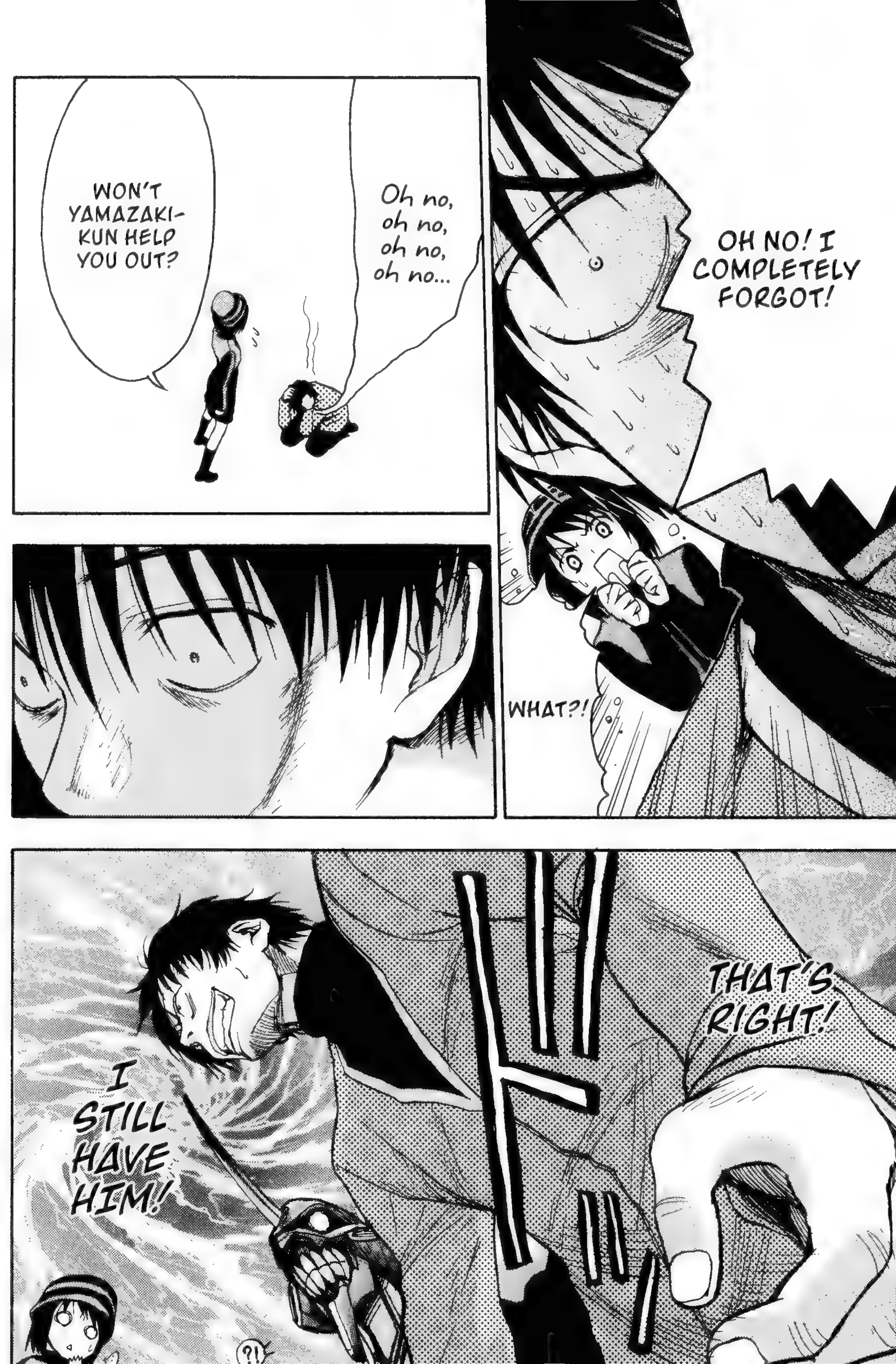

すっ
!
SATOU-KUN...YOU CAN...TOUCH THEM IF YOU WANT.
MISAKI-CHAN...
OH!
AH!
UNH!
SATOU... KUN!

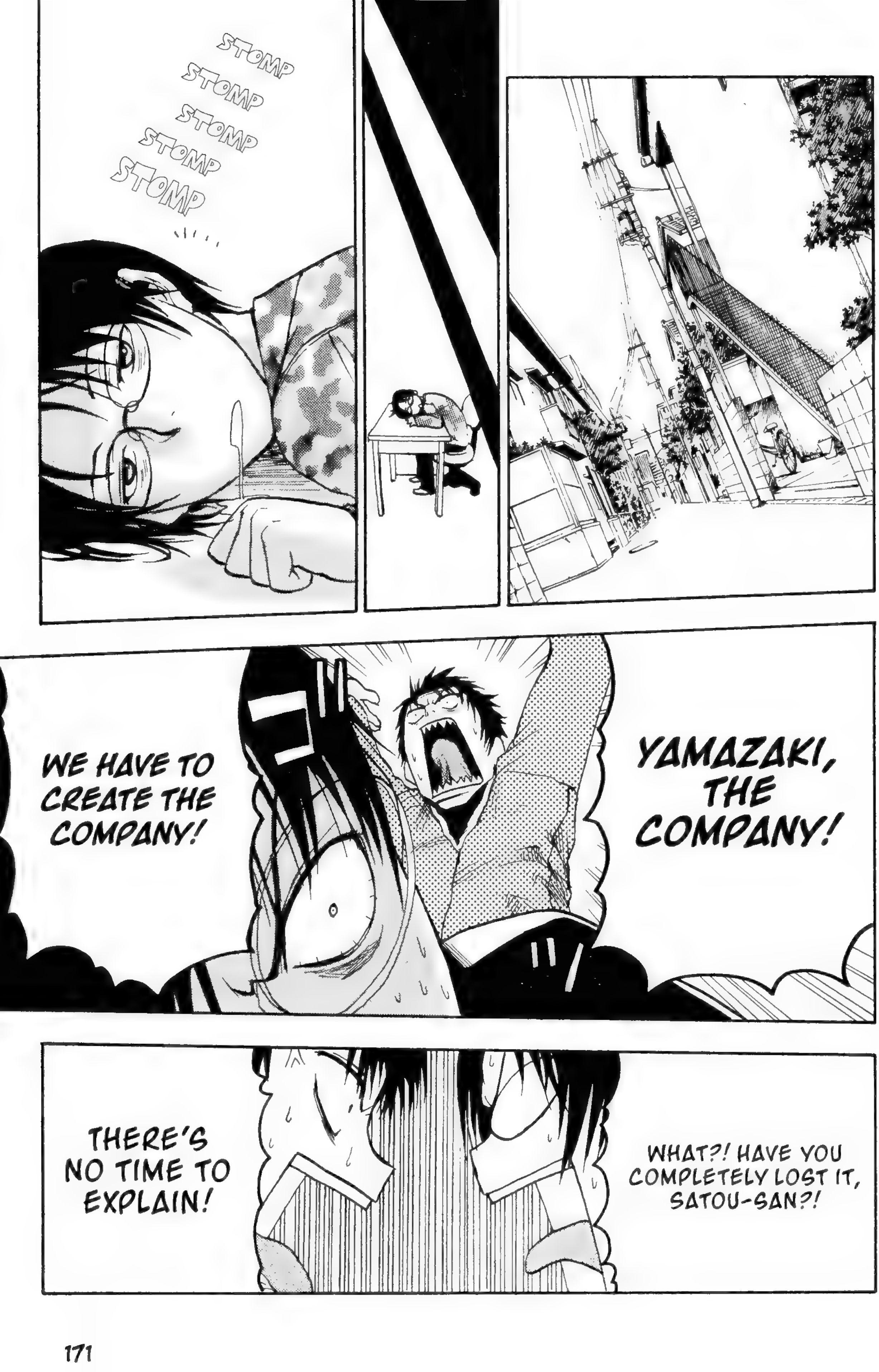

AAAAAAAAHH!
はうわ!
FANTASIZING AT 300%
Whoa!
LIKE THAT'D EVER HAPPEN! LIKE THAT'D EVER HAPPEN!
?
SATOU-KUN? YOU OKAY?
I-IT'S NOTHING! I'M TOTALLY FINE!
?
BY THE WAY, IF WE'RE GOING TO BE ACTING LIKE BOYFRIEND AND GIRLFRIEND...
...IT'D BE SUSPICIOUS IF YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME.
YES, I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT.
AT THE VERY LEAST, I SHOULD KNOW YOUR DATE OF BIRTH, BLOOD TYPE AND FAVORITE FOODS.

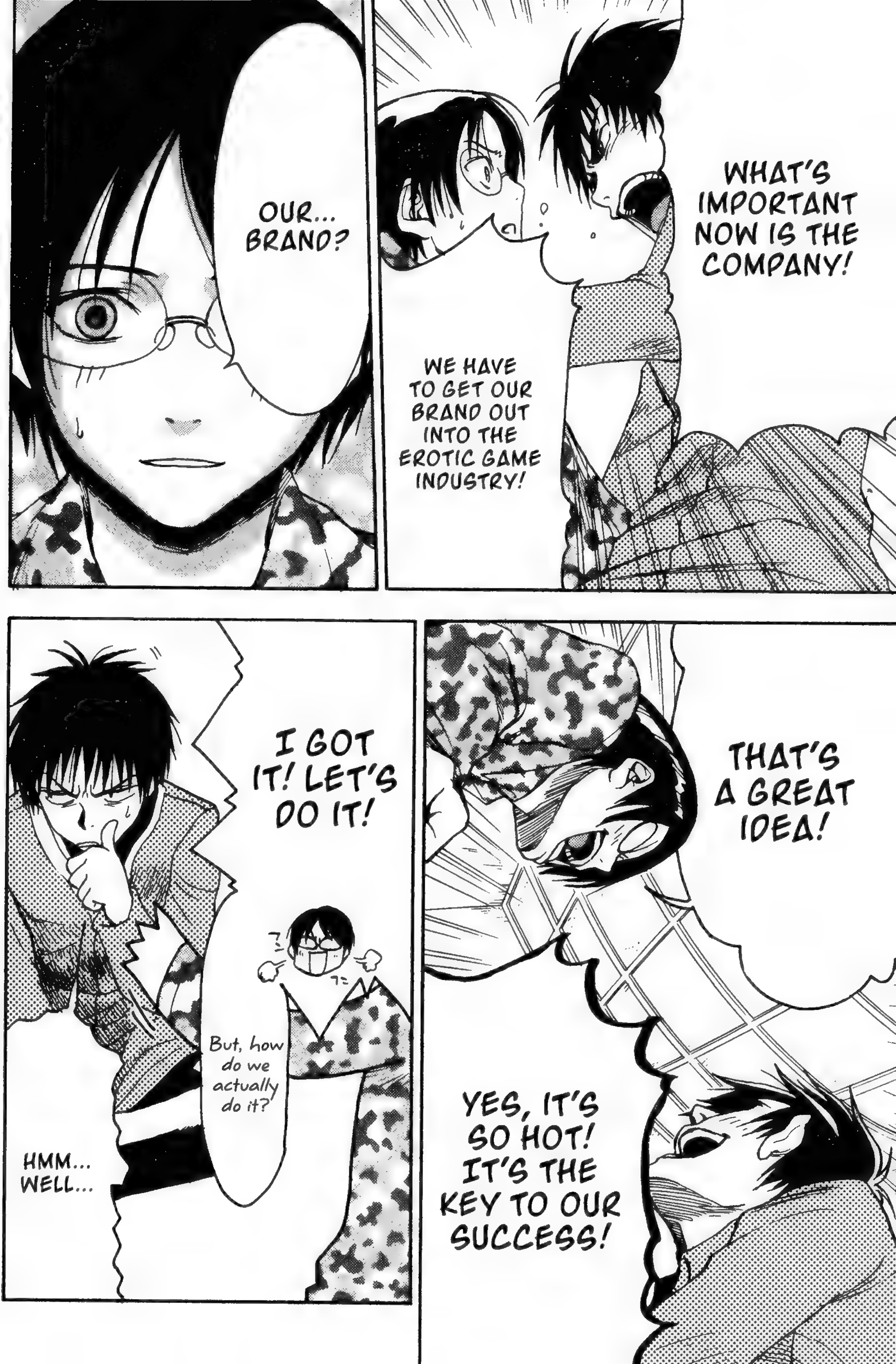

I KNOW THAT YOU LIKE MOVIES, YOUR BIRTHDAY IS JANUARY 28TH 198X AND YOUR BLOOD TYPE IS A.
ピタッ
H-HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THAT?
W-W-WELL...
...BECAUSE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A COUPLE, RIGHT?
UH... ANYWAY! YOU HAVE TO STUDY ABOUT ME TODAY TOO!
WE'LL START WITH MY FAMILY HISTORY.
MY GRANDFATHER WAS FRENCH AND HIS NAME WAS GEORGE BRUEFFEL. MY GRANDMOTHER WAS A JAPANESE PRIMA DONNA. THE TWO MET WHILE ABROAD AND FELL DEEPLY IN LOVE.
ペラ
AFTER RETURNING TO JAPAN, THEY MARRIED, WHERE MY MOTHER WAS BORN. EVENTUALLY MY MOTHER MARRIED MY FATHER, AN ELITE BUSINESSMAN.
ペラ
ペラ

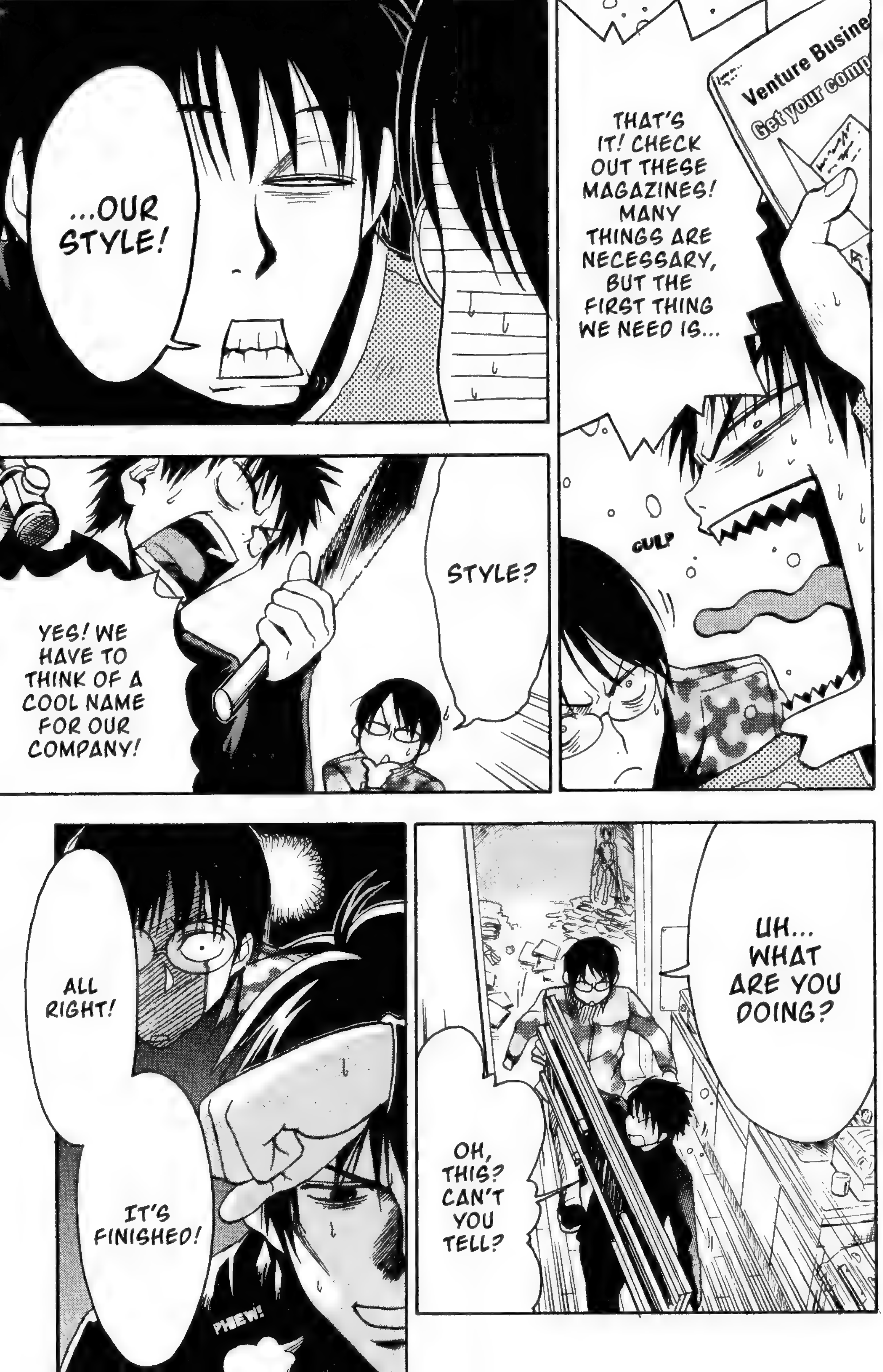

HOWEVER, AFTER SOME... WELL, CERTAIN EVENTS, I CAME TO LIVE WITH ONE OF MY RELATIVES.
...
ALL RIGHT! DID YOU GET ALL THAT?
YEAH... SORT OF.
REALLY?
THEN WHAT WAS MY GRAND-FATHER'S NAME?
G-George Buccellati ...
NO! IT WAS GEORGE BRUEFFEL. NOW REMEMBER IT!
WHATEVER!!
FRENCH MY ASS! STOP MAKING STUFF UP!
That's obviously a lie!

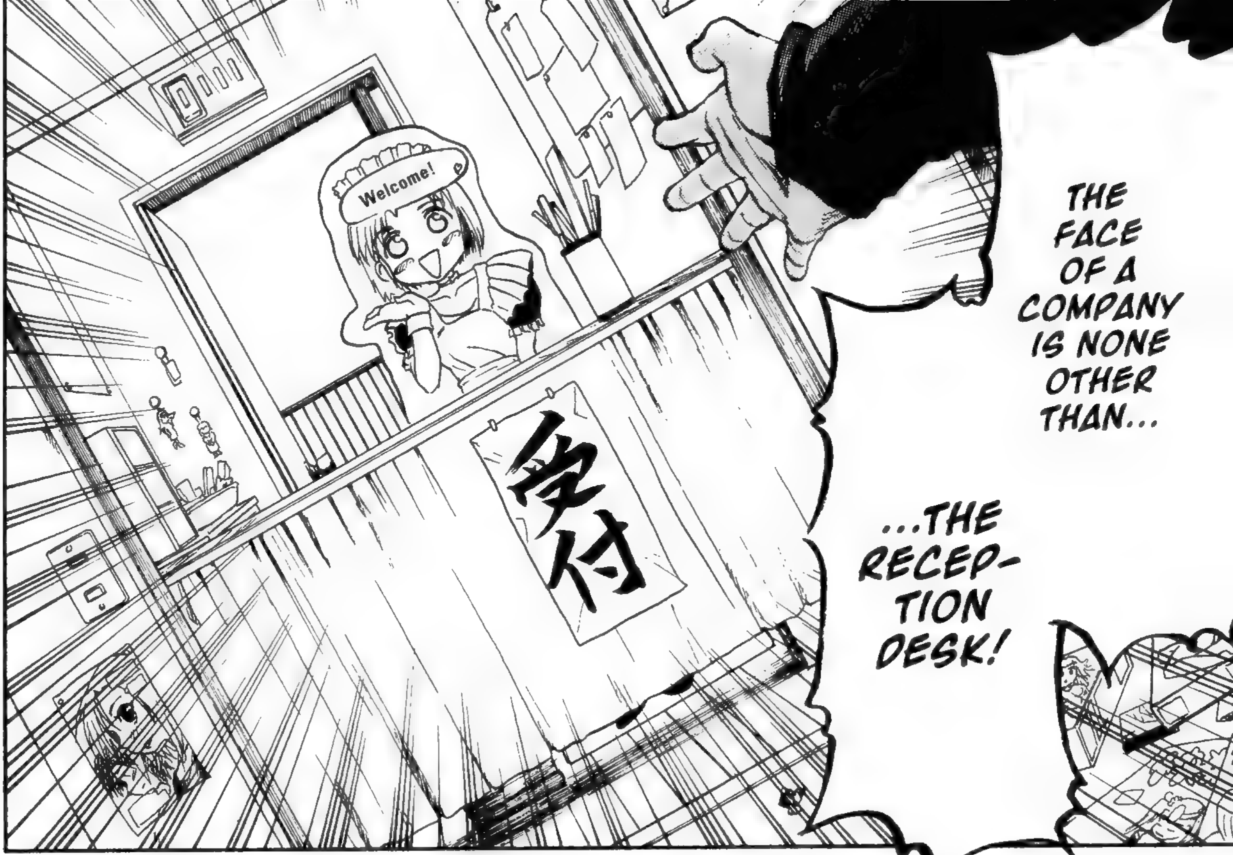

BUT STILL...
...I REALLY OWE YOU ONE FOR THIS.
YOU'RE REALLY HELPING ME OUT OF A JAM HERE.
I GUESS I'D LIKE TO SAY... TH-THANKS!
Oh!
THERE'S NO NEED TO THANK ME...
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT WORK?

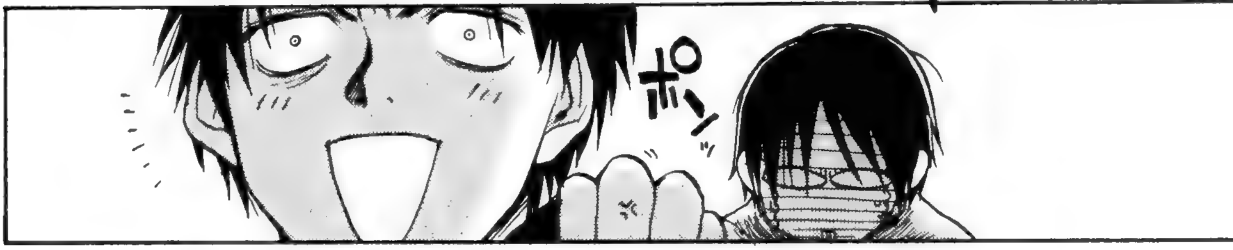

Oh no, oh no, oh no, oh no...
WON'T YAMAZAKI-KUN HELP YOU OUT?
OH NO! I COMPLETELY FORGOT!
WHAT?!
THAT'S RIGHT!
I STILL HAVE HIM!
?!


STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
YAMAZAKI, THE COMPANY!
WE HAVE TO CREATE THE COMPANY!
WHAT?! HAVE YOU COMPLETELY LOST IT, SATOU-SAN?!
THERE'S NO TIME TO EXPLAIN!

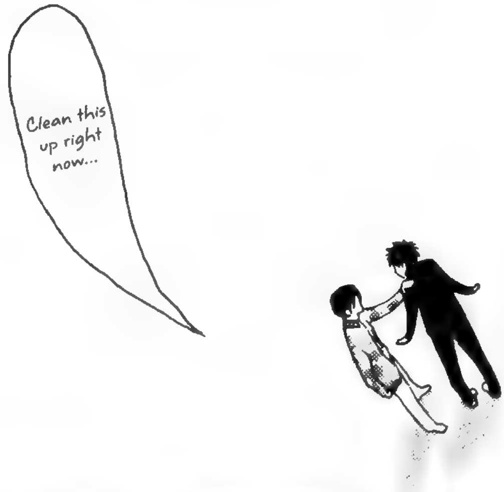

WHAT'S IMPORTANT NOW IS THE COMPANY!
WE HAVE TO GET OUR BRAND OUT INTO THE EROTIC GAME INDUSTRY!
OUR... BRAND?
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!
YES, IT'S SO HOT! IT'S THE KEY TO OUR SUCCESS!
I GOT IT! LET'S DO IT!
But, how do we actually do it?
HMM... WELL...


Venture Busine
Get your comp
THAT'S IT! CHECK OUT THESE MAGAZINES! MANY THINGS ARE NECESSARY, BUT THE FIRST THING WE NEED IS...
GULP
...OUR STYLE!
STYLE?
YES! WE HAVE TO THINK OF A COOL NAME FOR OUR COMPANY!
UH... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
OH, THIS? CAN'T YOU TELL?
ALL RIGHT!
IT'S FINISHED!
PHEW!


THE FACE OF A COMPANY IS NONE OTHER THAN...
...THE RECEPTION DESK!
Welcome!
受付



THREE DAYS LEFT UNTIL MY MOM COMES!


Clean this up right now...

Welcome to the COMPANY!

Welcome to the N.H.K.

#05 Welcome to the COMPANY!

CONTINUED IN VOLUME 02...NOW LOADING.

Extra TRACK — ZERO: The false season

Special Feature: Tatsuhiro Satou's (secret)

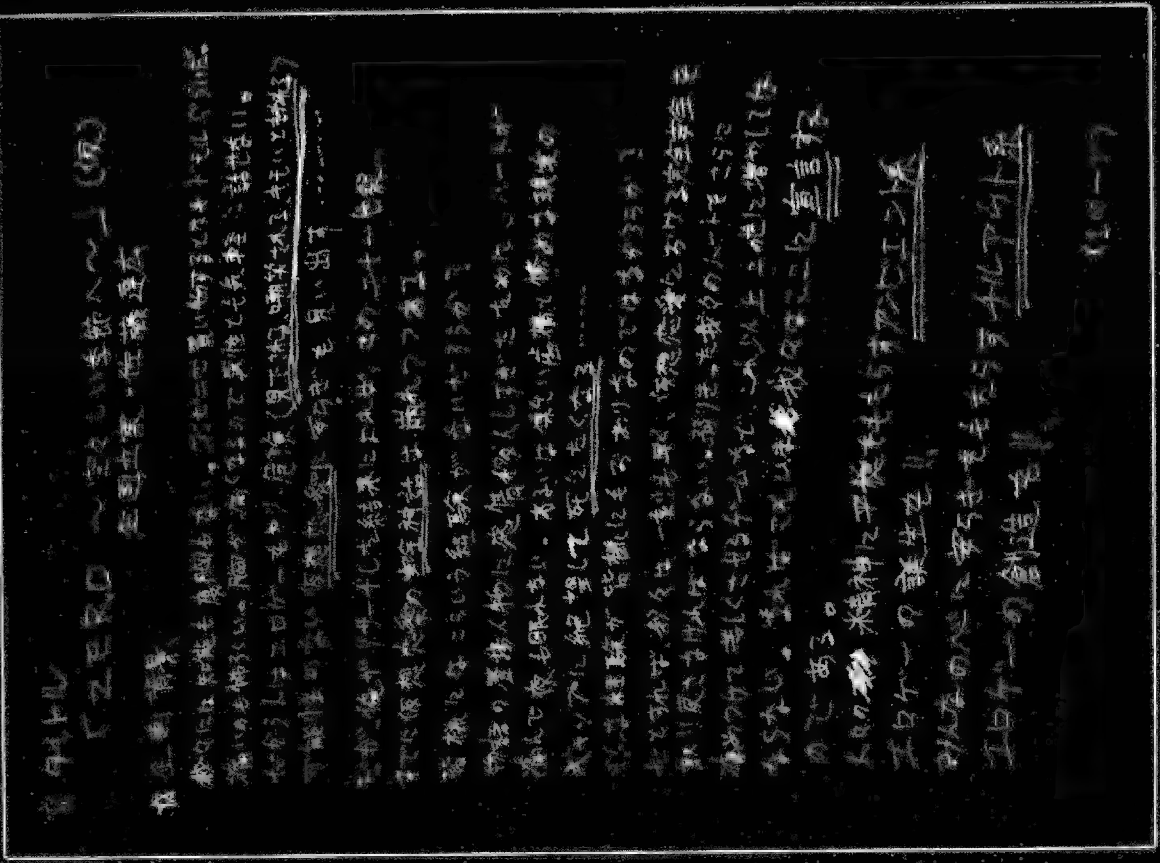
This bishojo (beautiful girls) PC game proposal was written by Tatsuhiro Satou (age 22) based on his natural instincts and bizarre fantasies. With his broad field of vision, despite being a hikikomori, this amateur brings to us an amazing game with the help of his exceptional knowledge and market research.

☆ Project Background ☆

We have neither brains nor courage. We've even been known to stammer when shopping at the convenience store. It's both painful and humiliating. And because our hearts ache, we cannot talk casually with members of the opposite sex. That is why people like us play erotic games, seeking for an imaginary love, void of pain (a.k.a. being looked down on, being laughed at and being called disgusting).

However, according to my research, in the 21st century, the reassuring myth of imaginary love is crumbling. Has no one else had this same experience? Too much affection for the story's main characters results in increased heartache and the inability to sleep at night. Or they may despair in the void between the entertaining fictional world and the painful world of reality and wish for death.

I'm sure many of you have experienced this before. However, we must take back the sense of complete safety this imaginary love brings us. We cannot continue to support the games that hurt and suffocate hearts of already exhausted humans. And that is the reason I am telling you this today. We will give birth to an ambient ero-game that brings back the sensitivity and tranquility in people. The creation of this relaxing erotic game will return the peace to people's hearts!



☆タイトル
「ZERO ～空々しい季節へ～」（仮）
企画立案・佐藤達広
☆企画背景

人々の精神に平穏をもたらすアンビエント系
エロゲーの誕生を!!
みんなの心に安らぎをもたらすチルアウト系
エロゲーの創造を!!

Erotic Game Proposal

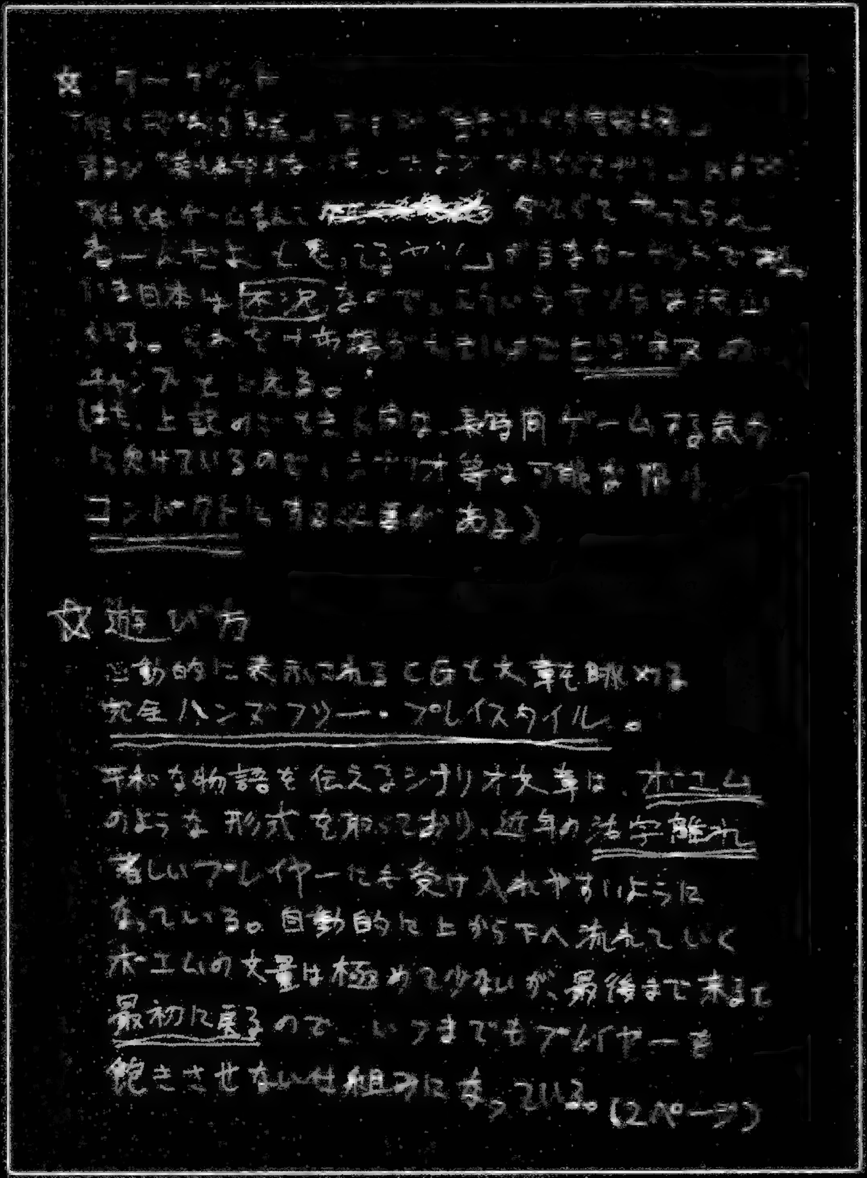
It includes a story-based gameplay, a storyline brimming with ecological ideals that can heal every heart (but who's sick?) and is an erotic game that transcends all generations. Now enjoy a portion of this top-secret game design proposal (that we found in the garbage).

☆ Target ☆

The target audience of our game is primarily those who feel victimized by their personal fear, those who have lost the will to live, people who have no hopes or dreams, those who just don't care anymore and those who think that it's too much of a drag to be playing games in the first place. Because Japan is currently experiencing a recession, many people feel this way right now. And it is because the market is so big that this business has a chance. But also, because of the people mentioned above, who have little will to play games in the first place, it will be necessary to make the story and other aspects of the game as user-friendly as possible.

☆ Gameplay ☆

The gameplay is hands-free, where the CG images and text automatically appear on the screen. The story's script reads peacefully, like a poem. For those who are unfamiliar with modern printed type, we use the easiest to read. The text flows from the top to the bottom of the screen and is simple enough for anyone to read. It is designed so that the player returns to the beginning after reaching the end, thus keeping players from getting bored with it.



☆ ターゲット
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
いま日本は不況なので、[illegible]
いる。[illegible]ビジネスの
チャンスと言える。
また、上記のような人々は、長時間ゲームする気力
に欠けているので、シナリオ等は可能な限り
コンパクトにする必要がある）

☆ 遊び方
自動的に表示されるCGと文章を眺める
完全ハンズフリー・プレイスタイル。
平和な物語を伝えるシナリオ文章は、ポエム
のような形式を取っており、近年の活字離れ
著しいプレイヤーたちも受け入れやすいように
なっている。自動的に上から下へ流れていく
ポエムの文量は極めて少ないが、最後まで来ると
最初に戻るので、いつまでもプレイヤーを
飽きさせない仕組みになっている。（2ページ）

Extra TRACK — ZERO: The false season

If you're looking for something that you expect to change the world in a single night, then look no further. ZERO: The false season is the answer. Especially when you see the revolutionary new gaming system that incorporates the "hands-free" gameplay. No doubt, this new game will surpass all pre-existing games made. What you should really look out for is the main character, a charcoal-maker! This is what is sure to grab the hearts of all kinds of people out there.

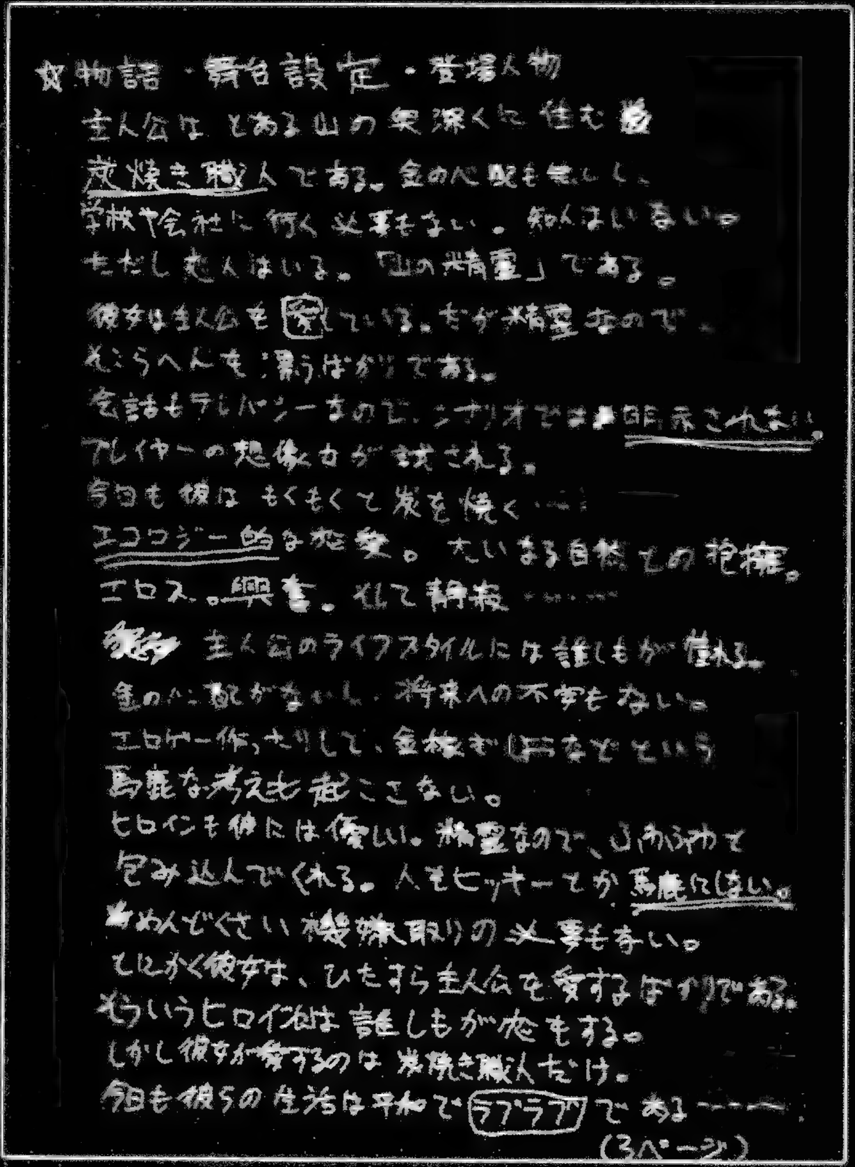
Characters/Setting

Our main character is a charcoal-maker, who resides deep in the mountains. He has no need for money and no need for school or society. He has no friends. He only has a lover. That is a "mountain spirit." She loves the main character. But because she is a ghost, she can only love him from beyond the grave. They carry on conversations via telepathy, which is inferred in the story, but not actually written down. This challenges the creativity and imagination of the player to understand what is happening.

To this day, our hero continues to make his charcoal with his ecological love, in an embrace with all of nature. It is erotic, it is arousing and it is silent...

Anyone can admire our hero's lifestyle. He does not worry about money. He has no anxiety about his future. And he does not have foolish ideas about designing an erotic game to make money.

Our heroine is kind to him too. Because she is a ghost, she gently wraps herself around him. She doesn't make fun of him by calling him a hikikomori or anything. She has no reason for anger or for sadness. She simply loves our main character. That is all. Anyone would love this heroine, but she chooses only to love this simple charcoal-maker. And so the two live out their days in peaceful bliss...



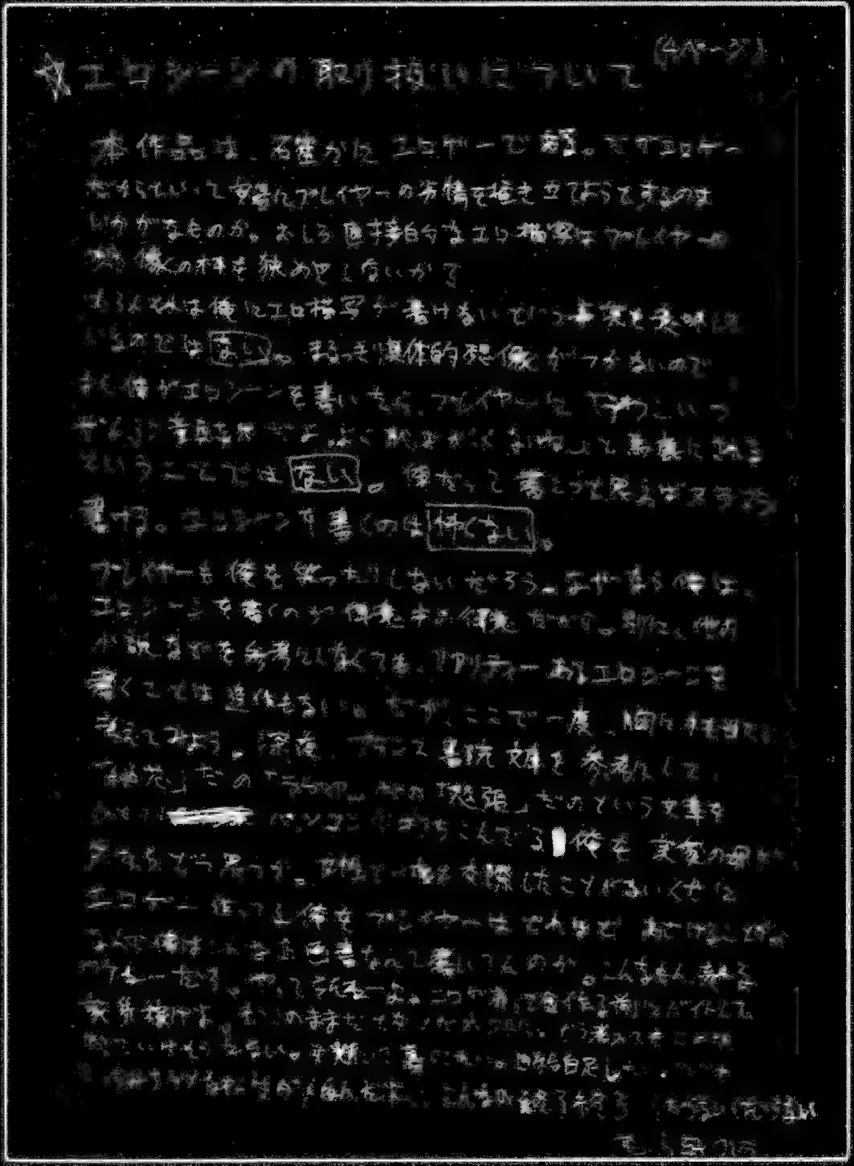
☆物語・舞台設定・登場人物

主人公はとある山の奥深くに住む
炭焼き職人である。金の心配も無いし、
学校や会社に行く必要もない。友人はいない。
ただし恋人はいる。「山の精霊」である。
彼女は主人公を愛している。だが精霊なので、
そこらへんを漂うばかりである。
会話もテレパシーなので、シナリオでは明示されない。
プレイヤーの想像力が試される。
今日も彼はもくもくと炭を焼く……
エコロジー的な恋愛。大いなる自然との抱擁。
エロス。興奮。そして静寂……
主人公のライフスタイルには誰しもが憧れる。
金の心配がないし、将来への不安もない。
エロゲー作ったりして、金稼ぎしようなどという
馬鹿な考えも起こさない。
ヒロインも彼には優しい。精霊なので、ふわふわと
包み込んでくれる。人をヒッキーとか馬鹿にしない。
めんどくさい機嫌取りの必要もない。
とにかく彼女は、ひたすら主人公を愛するばかりである。
そういうヒロインは誰しもが恋をする。
しかし彼女が愛するのは炭焼き職人だけ。
今日も彼らの生活は平和でラブラブである――。
（3ページ）

This is an idea not seen very often—its gentle and refreshing look is sure to capture the eye of all who play it. No one can forget the heroine, the mountain spirit. Though no one can actually understand what she really is, she only needs a person's imagination to exist. What matters is that she is the epitome of the love people of our generation are seeking. In the world of erotic games, it seems as if every possible scenario has been thought of, right? But you know, heroes always make a late appearance. Prepare yourselves for the most highly anticipated game of the century!

Erotic Scenes

In essence, our game is an erotic game. But because it is an erotic game, should we merely try to arouse some carnal desire in our players? And don't blatant erotic images, in fact, limit the creative imagination of the player? Of course, this does not imply that we are unable to draw sex scenes, but rather that one drawing could never fully capture the intensity of a sex scene. It has nothing to do with the notion that if I were to draw a sex scene, it would make players roll their eyes and think, "Sheesh, this guy has a virgin's imagination! Has he no shame?" If I wanted to, I could draw pretty well. I am not afraid to draw sex scenes. I'm sure players wouldn't laugh at me. I could draw some of the best sex scenes out there, if I wanted to. Even if I do not look at other novels for reference, drawing realistic sex scenes is not a problem for me at all. But put your hand over your heart and think something for a second. What would my mother think if she knew that I was staying up late at night looking at dirty hentai magazines and typing in the words g-spot, labia and swollen cock into my computer? Will I be able to create an ero-game that satisfies players despite not having had sexual intercourse with a female even ONCE in my life? Why am I even writing this proposal? There's no way this will ever sell. What a joke! Shouldn't I go out and get a part-time job to pay the rent before trying to sell an erotic game?! This won't go anywhere! I can't go on living this way. I want to run away and live as a charcoal-maker. I want to be self-sufficient! And it seems that no path I take is the right one!! I'm done with this crap! I give up! I want to die!



★エロシーンの取り扱いについて

Welcome to the Glossary!

Page 7:
Ojamajo
Ojamajo is short for *Ojamajo Doremi*, an anime series about young witches. It was released in the U.S. under the title of *Magical DoReMi*.

Page 8:
Hikikomori
Similar in meaning to hermit or recluse, hikikomori is a word for a sociological phenomenon in Japan where adolescents and young adults withdraw from society and live in extreme isolation.

Masatatsu Oyama
A renowned karate master and founder of the Kyokushin school. Many legends about his life still persist to this day, including his ability to slice bottles in two.

Page 13:
Triangular Wooden Horse
A reference to the triangular roof-looking device used for torture. This is a common sexual motif in Japanese hentai/pornography.

Page 20:

NHK

NHK is the national Japanese public broadcasting station, similar to PBS in America except that it's one of Japan's most popular TV station. Everyone in Japan who owns a TV set pays a voluntary NHK tax.

Nadia

Nadia, short for *Nadia: The Secret of Blue Water,* a classic anime created by Gainax.

Page 29:

Song Lyrics

The lyrics are from the song Catch You Catch Me from the anime *Cardcaptor Sakura.*

Page 40:

Shonen Ace

A shonen manga magazine aimed at otaku published by Kadokawa. Home to popular series such as *Welcome to the N.H.K.* and *Sgt. Frog.*

Page 48:

SOHO

SOHO stands for Small Office Home Office or someone who is self-employed and works from their home in Information Technology.

Page 56:
Order of Culture

An award presented by the Emperor of Japan for contributions to the nation's art, literature or culture. The notion of receiving such a high honor for creating porn is, of course, ridiculous.

Page 61:
Loli-con/Lolita Complex

Loli-con is a Japanese slang term, short for Lolita Complex, meaning an attraction to underage girls. In the West, the term has come to mean anime/manga featuring young girls.

Page 67:
Moe

Pronounced "mo-eh," this slang term, which literally means "budding," originally referred to a fetish or love for anime/manga characters. Lately the term is often used to describe characters who elicit a protective or loving response from the audience.

Page 74:
Vana'diel

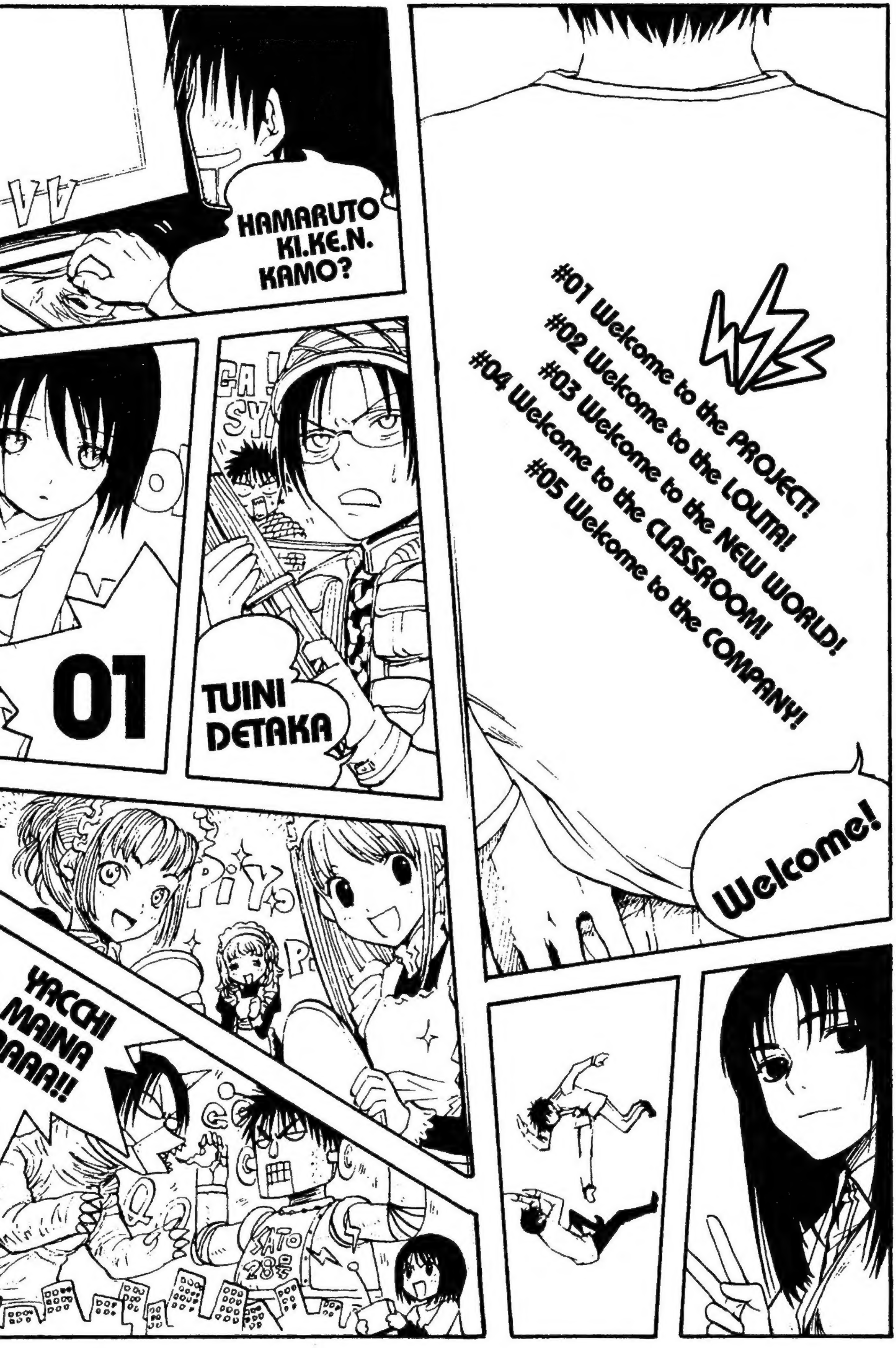
The name of the fictional world of the popular role-playing videogame, *Final Fantasy XI.*

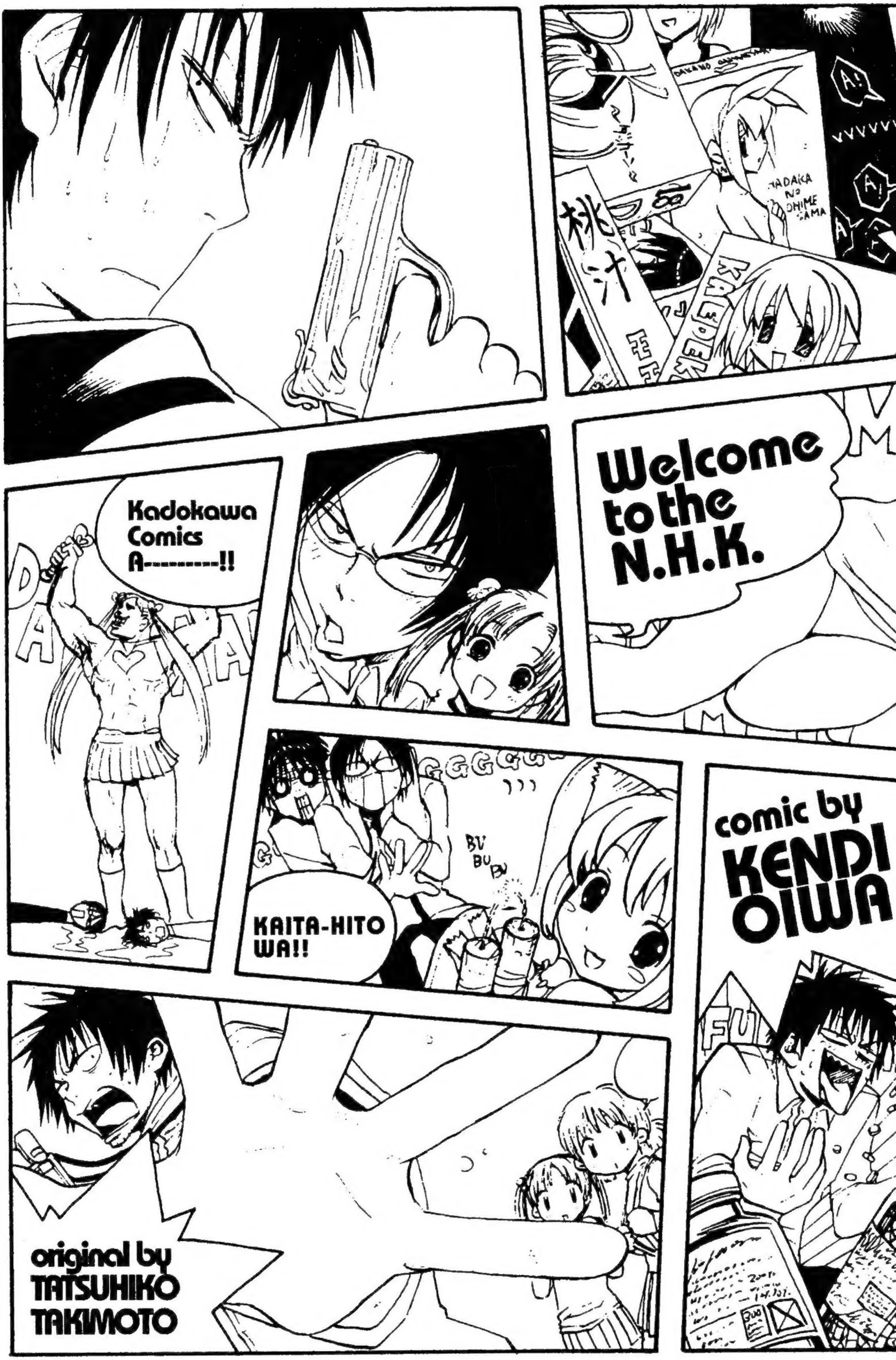
Page 78:
Akihabara
Akihabara, or the "electric town" of Tokyo, is the hottest hang out/and shopping spot for otaku.

Page 82:
Doremi, Nakoruru, Sakura
Popular characters from *Magical DoReMi, Samurai Showdown,* and *Cardcaptor Sakura,* respectively.

Page 221:
Yoshizaki-sensei
The mangaka of *Sgt. Frog.* As you can see in the top panel, Satou is wearing a jacket featuring everyone's favorite Earth-conquering amphibian.

Page 163:
Manga Cafés
A café where people pay a fee and can read as much manga as they want. These are very popular in Japan and many also offer internet access, video games, movies. Misaki is reading a manga called *Ai Yori Amashi,* a parody of the best-selling manga by Kou Fumizuki, *Ai Yori Aoshi.*


#01 Welcome to the PROJECT!
#02 Welcome to the LOLITA!
#03 Welcome to the NEW WORLD!
#04 Welcome to the CLASSROOM!
#05 Welcome to the COMPANY!
Welcome!
HAMARUTO KI.KE.N. KAMO?
TUINI DETAKA
01
GA!
SY
PiYo
YACCHI MAINA AAAA!!
SATO 28号

A!
A!
HADAKA NO OHIME SAMA
桃汁
KAEDE
Welcome to the N.H.K.
Kadokawa Comics A---------!!
comic by KENDI OIWA
KAITA-HITO WA!!
BU BU BU
GGGGG
original by TATSUHIKO TAKIMOTO
FU